



How to Teach the CH Sound

The /ch/ sound is actually a combination of the /t/ and the /sh/ sound. To make the sound, begin with your teeth together and bring the tip of your tongue to the small ridge just behind the front teeth. The corners of the lips are pulled together so the lips pucker. This is a voiceless stop consonant, which means that the sound comes from air that travels through the mouth and is stopped by the tip of the tongue touching the roof of your mouth behind your teeth before it is released from the mouth. Your vocal cords do not vibrate during the /ch/ sound.

Verbal cues

Since the /ch/ sound is a combination of two other sounds, the /t/ sound and the /sh/ sound, a great technique to help your child make the sound is to have them say the /t/ and the /sh/ sounds back to back. For example, the phrase “meet ship” begins to sound like “me chip” the faster you say it. Encourage your little one to try this. It will make them more familiar with saying the sound. Once they can make the sound by itself, have them combine it with vowels to make simple syllables and then move on to words and sentences.

Visual/Tactile cues

Many kids already know the /ch/ sound as the “choo choo” sound. Help them remember this when they make the sound by moving your arm up and down with your hand in a fist like a train conductor. Your child can do it too as they pronounce the sound! Another fun motion that reminds kids what the sound is like is to sneeze. The big “aahh-CHOO” helps them say the sound as well. If you demonstrate the sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, you can teach your child how to reduce the spread of germs at the same time!