



## How to Teach the G Sound

The /g/ sound and the /k/ sound are very similar and use the same mouth position. So what makes them different? The /g/ sound is a *voiced* sound and the /k/ sound is *unvoiced*. That means that your vocal cords are vibrating as air is passed through the mouth to make the /g/ sound. Position the back of your tongue at the near the back of the roof of your mouth, on what is called the *soft palate*. When you allow voiced air to come through, it is stopped by your tongue and then released when you lower your tongue from the top of your mouth. This is the /g/ sound.

### **Verbal cues**

When your child is learning a particular sound, it is important for them to have a clear understanding of what the sound is and how it sounds. Communicate this to your little one by clearly and slowly pronouncing the single sound for your child: “/g/, /g/, /g/.” They will begin to imitate you and try to make the sound themselves. Once they master the individual sound, move on to simple syllables by adding vowels to the /g/ sound, such as “goo, goo, goo”, “gay, gay, gay”, and “go, go, go.” Now your toddler is on his way to /g/ words!

### **Physical Cues**

For some kids, it can be difficult to figure out where their tongue should go and how to get it there for this sound. One solution is to have them lie on their back and then try to make the sound. Since gravity naturally pulls the tongue further back when they are in this position, it is easier for them to make the correct tongue-palate contact. Once they can produce the /g/ sound while lying down, have them practice it again standing up. Another trick for the /g/ sound is to try gargling water. This strengthens the tongue muscles and puts their tongue in the correct position for the /g/ and /k/ .

### **Tactile Cues**

Since /g/ is a voiced sound, your vocal cords vibrate as you say it. Have your child feel this by putting their hand over your throat as you articulate the sound. It will be brief, but they should be able to feel the vibrations. Have them try this with their own voice to see if they are pronouncing the /g/ sound correctly.