



## How to produce the /k/ sound

To make the /k/ sound, put the back of your tongue against the top of your mouth towards the back on what is called your soft palate. With your tongue in this position, draw air through your mouth and release it by lowering your tongue. This unvoiced release of air is the /k/ sound.

- **Verbal cues**

When practicing specific sounds with your child, it is important to start by correctly articulating the individual sound. This helps your child understand where you are focusing and gives them an example to imitate. Start by repeating the sound clearly and slowly for your child: “/k/, /k/, /k/.”

After your child masters the single sound, try combining it with vowels to form simple syllables, such as “ka, ka, ka,” “kay, kay, kay” and “kee, kee, kee.”

- **Physical Cues**

Some kids have trouble getting their tongue to the right spot in the back of their mouth. To make this easier, lay down on your backs with your child. From this position, the tongue naturally falls closer to the back of the mouth (thanks, gravity!) Have your little one try to say the /k/ sound while lying like this. Once she gets the hang of it, have her try again standing up.

- **Tactile Cues**

Since the /k/ sound is an unvoiced stop, it produces a big puff of air from your mouth when pronounced correctly (definitely bigger than the similar /g/ sound makes.) Have your child hold his hand in front of your mouth as you make the /k/ sound to feel the air that you expel. Then encourage him to feel his own puff of breath as he creates the sound himself.