



Recommended Slide Time: 5 minutes

Slide Purpose: Inform parents that vowels are among the first sounds their child may master.

Lesson Point 1. Tools: Mirror Flip-Flap; Handout *Point and Say Vowels*; Handout *Mirror Mouthing*. Children learn by imitation, and one way they learn to talk is by watching your mouth and tongue position.

Lesson Point 2. At-home activity: In, on, under. During daily activities, occasionally stretch the vowel sounds in words. “Get iiii-n your high chair”, “You’re oooo-n the swing”, “Look, kitty is uuuu-nder the bed.” When emphasizing vowel sounds, use the sound as it is in the word -- either a long or short vowel.

Lesson Point 3. In-class activity: Stretch a-e-i-o-u. Position your face so you are directly in front of your child, make eye contact and smile. Say, “Watch my mouth” and slowly say a vowel sound. “Your turn” and child repeats it back to you. Continue cooing vowel sounds back-and-forth. Near age two, your child may enjoy the words in the handout, *Point and Say Vowels*. Point to a picture and say the word, stretching the sound of the first letter. Encourage your child to copy you.

Lesson Point 4. In-class activity: Watch mouth in mirror. Repeating vowel sounds is effectively done in front of a real mirror, too. After you model the sound, your child watches himself in the mirror as he says the vowel. He can see if his mouth looks like yours. While your toddler is learning to talk, don’t correct his words, just be a good example.