



***All about the Voiceless /TH/ sound***

- The /th/ sound is made by placing your tongue between your upper and lower front teeth with the mouth slightly open. Voice is off
- Some children can say the /th/ at the end of words before they can say the /th/ at the beginning of words.

***Some common errors for the /TH/ sound***

- Some children use a /s/ or /f/ for /th/ (“fumb” for “thumb”) or (“sumb” for “thumb”)

***Awareness activities to develop a child’s recognition of the /TH/ sound in everyday conversations***

- Emphasize the /TH/ sound in your speech  
Example: Parent: “We have three cookies. Listen, three has the ‘th’ sound. Three.”  
For older children, provide the sound’s name too: “Three starts with /th/.”
- Emphasize /TH/ words within your child’s speech  
Example: Child: “I have marker on my fumb.” Parent: “Thumb? You have marker on your thumb?”

***Cue child’s production of /TH/ using corrective feedback strategies in everyday conversations***

Child says: “free” (for three)

Adult responds with a strategy that best fits the moment:

*Provide a good Model of the /TH/ by saying the word again slowly and clearly:* “Three.”

*Provide a Visual Cue:* Point to your tongue and emphasize the /TH/ sound as you say “Thhhree.”

*Provide a Verbal Cue:* “Listen to the /TH/ sound. Thhhree. I use my tongue to make the /th/.”

*Provide Feedback:* “I heard the /ffff/ sound when you said three.”

*Use a Communication Breakdown technique:* “Do you mean “free” or “three?”

***Target Sound Practice designed to give children many opportunities to say the /TH/ correctly***

Learning speech sounds takes practice. The speech/language pathologist will assign one targeted speech sound for the child to work on each week. Find a quiet, consistent time each day to practice with the child.

***Activity One: Awareness Activities for /TH/ before Target Sound Practice***

- Use the Listening List (below) to heighten awareness of the /TH/ before target sound practice sessions.

***Activity Two: Target Sound Practice for /TH/ with words and picture cards***

- Use the Target Sound Picture Cards (next page) and activities to give the child many opportunities to practice saying the /TH/ sound correctly in words. Provide the child with feedback on how he/she is doing as they practice (e.g. “Great Job!”, “That was close, say it again after me.”)

***Cueing strategies to get correct production of /TH/ during Target Sound Practice***

Child says: “fink” (for think)

- Say, “Let’s try that again. Think.”
- Point to your mouth. Say “Watch my tongue, think.”
- Put your fingers near your tongue to give a visual cue and say “Think.”

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**Listening List /TH/**

Say these words to your child. Have them watch and listen without repeating you.

theatre

thick

things

think

throw

thimble

thin

third

thief



Target Sound Practice Cards

**thumb**



**think**



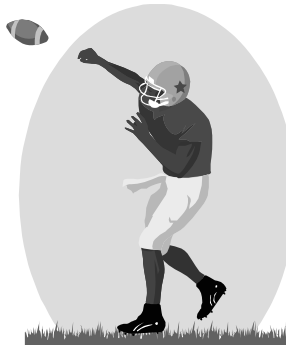
**thank**



**three**

**3**

**throw**



**thirsty**



**thumb**



**think**



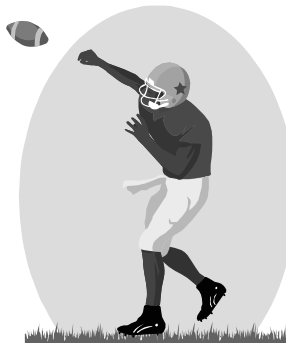
**thank**



**three**

**3**

**throw**



**thirsty**





## **Carrying over Target Sound Practice to other Times of the Day**

Cut apart the cards below. Put these cards in different places in your home, in the childcare and/or school. This allows the child practice throughout the day and instills the importance of using good speech skills all the time, not just at practice time. It also helps transfer correct productions into other environments, with other people, and in other word contexts. Examples of places to put these cards are:

on the bathroom countertop  
at his/her place at the dinner table  
on the car booster seat

on his cubbie at daycare/preschool  
on the doorway leaving the classroom  
on his/her pillow to say before bed

Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty	Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty
Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty	Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty
Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty	Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty
Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty	Ask me to say these words: thumb  think  thank  thirsty



**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SOUND PROBE – TH at the Beginning of Words**

Please complete this after you have finished the entire home program with your child. You will complete a different sound probe for each set of target words you were given. This will give the speech/language pathologist an idea of how well the target sounds transferred to words that were not practiced by your child.

Instructions:

- Say these words as naturally as possible to your child
- Have your child repeat these words after you
- Listen only for the target sounds that were practiced
- Check the appropriate box next to each word

	Correct	Incorrect
<b><u>TH</u>ATCH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>TH</u>ORN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>TH</u>UD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>TH</u>EME</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>TH</u>ING</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use this area to provide specific comments or questions about progress: