Elkonin Sound Boxes: 2 Sounds

Words like up, me, go, see, my, no.

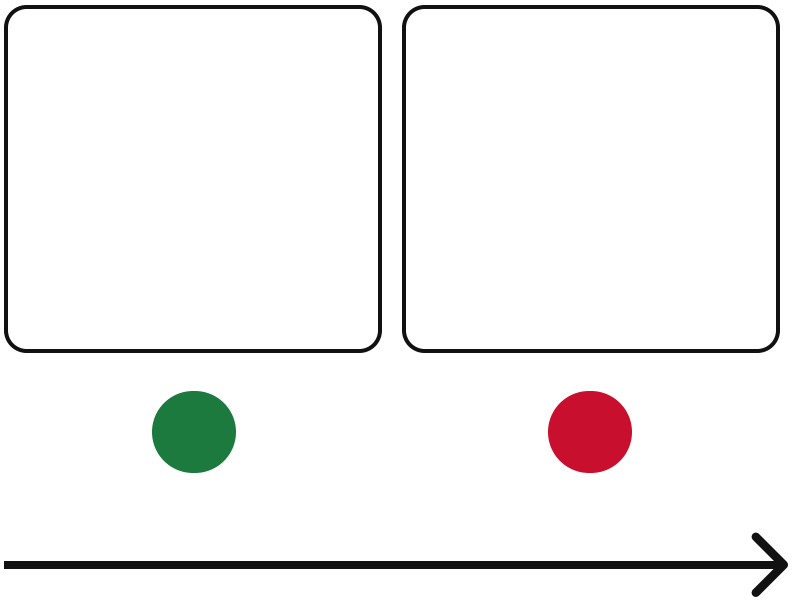
1
Adult says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.

2
Kid puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.

3
Kid touches each dot and says that sound on its own.

4
Kid sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.

5
Kid takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.



Elkonin Sound Boxes: 3 Sounds

Words like cat, ship, duck, rain, bike, top.

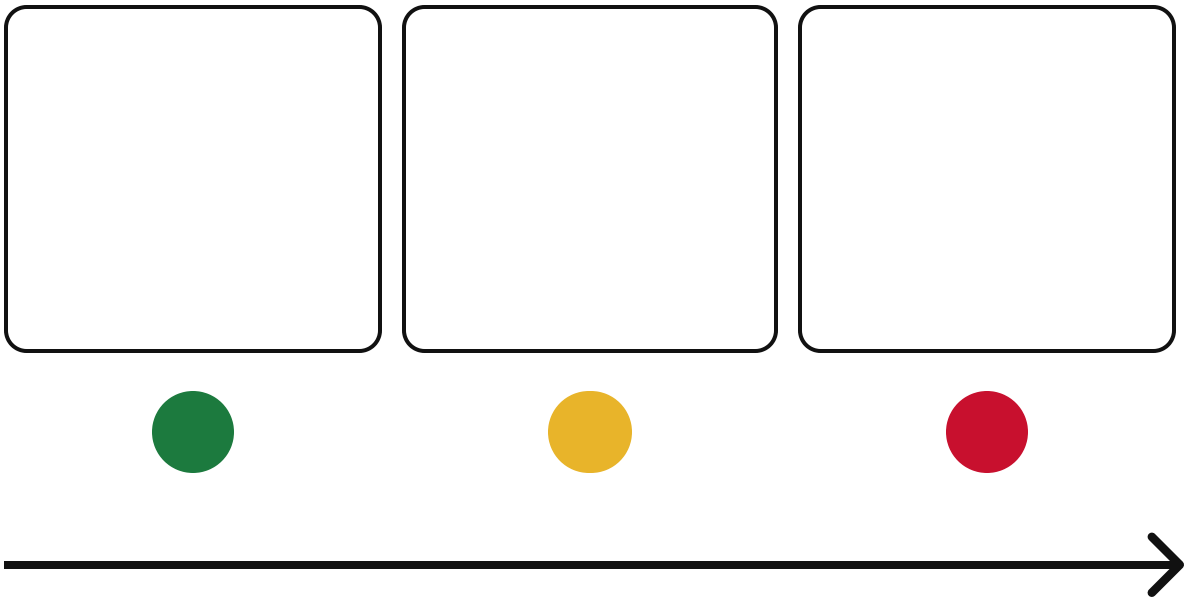
1
Adult says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.

2
Kid puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.

3
Kid touches each dot and says that sound on its own.

4
Kid sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.

5
Kid takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.



Elkonin Sound Boxes: 4 Sounds

Words like frog, hand, lunch, sleep, desk, train.

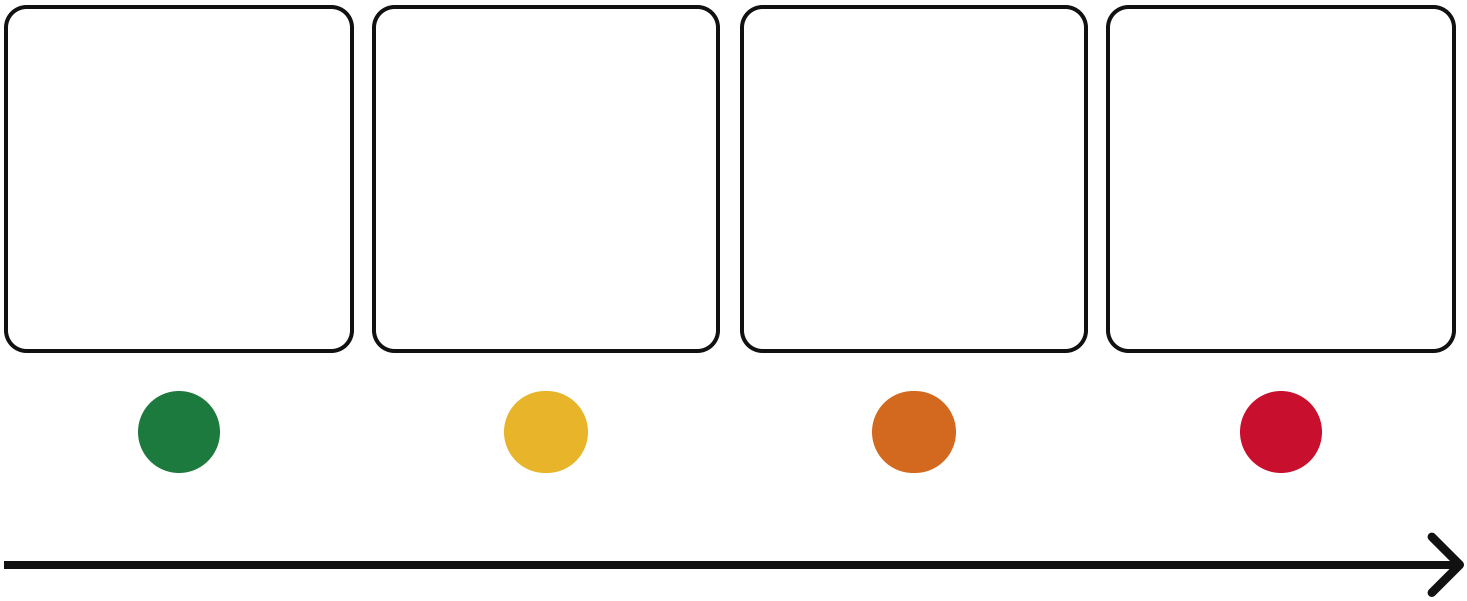
1
Adult says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.

2
Kid puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.

3
Kid touches each dot and says that sound on its own.

4
Kid sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.

5
Kid takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.



Elkonin Sound Boxes: 5 Sounds

Words like blend, stamp, crust, splash, string.

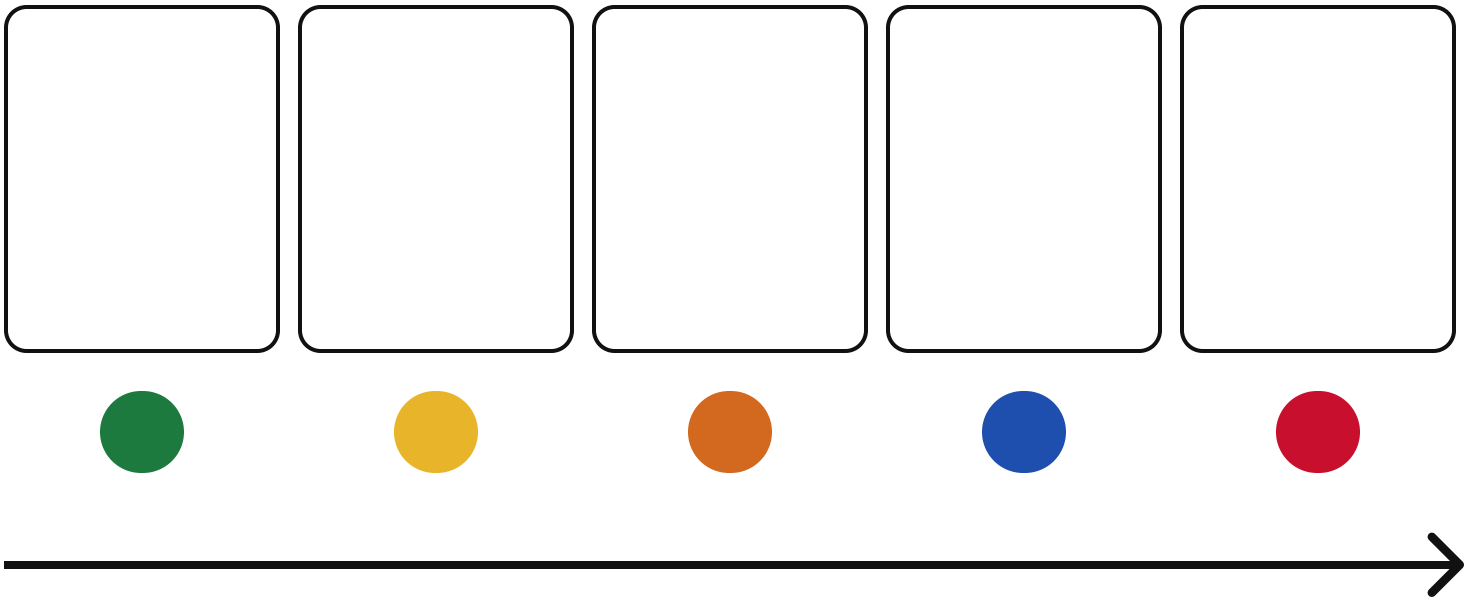
1
Adult says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.

2
Kid puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.

3
Kid touches each dot and says that sound on its own.

4
Kid sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.

5
Kid takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.



Elkonin Sound Boxes: Magic e

Words like mine, cake, home, cute. The e at the end makes no sound — it is why the vowel says its name.

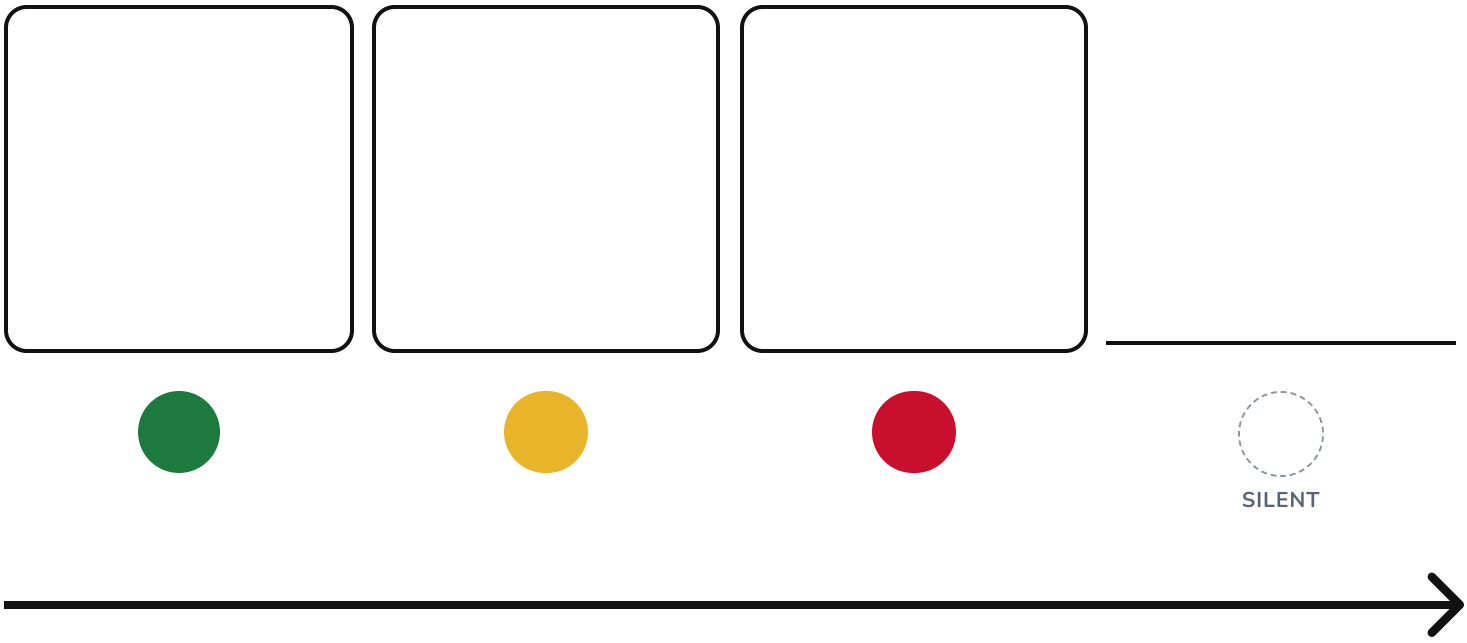
1
Adult says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.

2
Kid puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.

3
Kid touches each dot and says that sound on its own.

4
Kid sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.

5
Kid takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.



Sound Tiles: Consonants & Vowels

Start here — for most children this is the only tile page you need. Cut along the dotted lines. Each tile is ONE sound, so it goes in ONE box.

Consonants There is no q tile — q never works alone. Use qu.

b	c	d	f	g	h
j	k	l	m	n	p
qu	r	s	t	v	w
x	y	z			

Vowels Each spells a short sound and a long one. y is with the consonants — it does both jobs.

a	e	i	o	u

Sound Tiles: Letter Teams

For when your child meets ship, chin, duck and well. Cut along the dotted lines. Every tile here is two or three letters spelling a SINGLE sound — one box, never two.

Double letters

Two letters, still one sound — one box.

bb	dd	ff	gg	ll	mm
nn	pp	rr	ss	tt	zz

Two letters, one sound

These never split across two boxes.

ch	sh	th	wh	ng	ck
ph	gh	tch	dge		

Silent partners

The first letter is silent; the pair spells one sound.

wr	kn	gn	mb	ps	rh

Sound Tiles: Vowel Teams

For rain, boat, night and blue. Cut along the dotted lines. A vowel team is one sound and takes one box; the dotted e is the magic e — it goes on the line, never in a box.

Magic e Dotted because it is silent. It goes on the line, never in a box.

SILENT	SILENT	SILENT	SILENT

Vowel teams Two or more letters, one vowel sound, one box.

ai	ay	au	aw	ea	ee
ei	ew	ey	ie	oa	oe
oi	oo	ou	ow	oy	ue
ui	igh	eigh	augh	ough	

Sound Tiles: Bossy R

For car, bird, chair and store. Cut along the dotted lines. The r changes the vowel in front of it, so they share one box.

Bossy r The r changes the vowel. are and ore keep their silent e.

ar	er	ir	or	ur	air
ear	eer	oar	our	ure	are
ore					

In longer words ti, ci, si spell /sh/ — station, special, pension.

ti	ci	si	ed	le

Counters For the stage before letters — one counter per sound. Colour them in before you cut.

Sound Tiles: Extra Copies

Spare tiles, for words that use the same sound twice — mommy, teeth, little, banana. Cut along the dotted lines.

Extra vowels

The tiles a word runs out of first — teeth, moon, banana.

a	a	e	e	i	i
o	o	u	u		

Extra consonants

mommy, little, puppy, kitten.

s	t	n	r	l	m
d	c	h	p	b	g

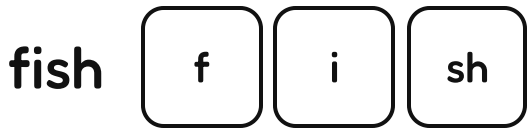
Extra vowel teams

ee	oo	ai	ea	ay	ow

Elkonin Sound Boxes: How to Use Them

For the grown-up. Ten minutes, one word at a time — tonight's word from school, from a story, or your child's own name.

One box for each sound — not each letter



Four letters, **three sounds**. **sh** is one sound, so it takes one box. English does not let you count sounds by counting letters — which is exactly why the boxes help.

Do it together — five steps

1. **Adult** says the word slowly, stretching each sound. Mmm-aaa-p.
2. **Kid** puts a sound tile in a box for each sound they hear.
3. **Kid** touches each dot and says that sound on its own.
4. **Kid** sweeps along the arrow and blends the sounds.
5. **Kid** takes the tiles off and writes the word, saying each sound.

> **You are in every session.** Step 1 is the whole scaffold — your child cannot pull a word apart into sounds until they hear it pulled apart. Say it again, slower, whenever they stall. Never spell it for them.

Worth knowing

- **No letters yet? Use the counters.** Same five steps, one counter per sound, no spelling. That is where a four-year-old starts.
- **Green to red.** The dots and the arrow are the direction the word is read — first sound on green, last on red.
- **Count sounds, not letters, to pick the page.** *up* → 2. *ship*, *rain* → 3. *frog* → 4. *stamp* → 5.
- **Two letters can be one sound.** *sh, ch, th, ck, ee, ai* and the doubles (*ll, ss, ff*) each take one box.
- **There is no q tile.** *q* never works alone — use *qu*. It says two sounds, /k/ and /w/, and most teachers keep it in one box.
- **x is two sounds**, /k/ and /s/. Let the *x* tile straddle two boxes, or use *k* and *s*.