

## Smooth Speech Story Time

### Requirements

Picture cards (various scenes/objects)

Timer

Reinforcement items (stickers, small toys)

### Instructions

**Introduction (5 minutes):** Greet the client and briefly review the concept of "smooth speech." Remind them that we will be using our smooth speech tools today. Explain that we'll be making up a story together using picture cards, and that focusing on smooth speech will help us tell an even better story.

**Picture Card Selection (2 minutes):** Spread out the picture cards face up. Have the client select 3-5 picture cards that catch their eye. These cards will form the basis of their story.

**Story Planning (3 minutes):** Before beginning the story, take a moment to plan. Ask the client to look at their chosen cards and think about how they might connect to create a narrative. Encourage them to think about the characters, setting, and potential plot points. Gently prompt if needed (e.g., "What might be happening in this picture?").

**Storytelling with Smooth Speech (15 minutes):** Begin the storytelling activity. The client will narrate a story incorporating each of their selected picture cards. Throughout the storytelling, actively encourage and prompt the use of smooth speech techniques. These can be modeled by you:

**Easy Onset:** Starting words with a gentle, relaxed initiation of airflow and voicing.

**Light Articulatory Contacts:** Reducing tension in the lips, tongue, and jaw when forming sounds.

**Continuous Phonation:** Maintaining airflow and voicing throughout phrases and sentences.

**Pausing:** Intentionally inserting brief pauses at natural phrase boundaries to give time to think.

During the storytelling, use gentle verbal cues (e.g., "Remember your easy onset here," "Nice smooth speech!"). Provide immediate positive reinforcement (e.g., "Great job stretching that word out!"). If the client experiences a moment of disfluency, gently prompt them to try a smooth speech technique on the next word or phrase. Aim for a supportive, non-pressuring environment. If the client gets stuck, provide a carrier phrase like "and then..." to help them.

**Review and Reinforcement (5 minutes):** Once the story is complete, provide specific and positive feedback about the client's use of smooth speech techniques during the activity. Highlight instances where they demonstrated good use of the techniques and offer constructive encouragement for areas to improve upon next time. Award stickers or a small toy as reinforcement. Review the smooth speech strategies that were used.