3-ELEMENT CLUSTERS

FOR THE COMPLEXITY APPROACH

The complexity approach is a phonological target selection principle that prioritizes targeting 1 or 2 later-developing, complex sounds and/or clusters to achieve overall speech improvement more efficiently. Given that the **3-element cluster is the most complex target in English**, prioritizing such a target for intervention is expected achieve across-class generalization to other less complex sound classes (e.g., affricates, fricatives, stops, etc.) without having to directly address each sound individually. However, a child **must have some knowledge of the 2nd and 3rd sound in the cluster** (i.e., occur at least a twice as singletons on a probe or articulation assessment) to trigger such broad generalization. No knowledge or stimulability of /s/ is necessary.

3-ELEMENT CLUSTERS	EXAMPLE TARGET WORDS
/stɹ/	"street", "straw", "strap"
/spɹ/	"sprout", "spring", "spray"
/skɹ/	"scribble", "scream", "scratch"
/skw/	"square", "squid", "squat"
/spl/	"splash", "split", "splotch"

TAP FOR MORE COMPLEXITY APPROACH RESOURCES ON WWW.GRAHAMSPEECHTHERAPY.COM

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- Gierut, J. A. (2001). Complexity in phonological treatment: Clinical factors. Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools, 32, 229–241.
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