

## The SNAKE Sound



### Features and Cues

- ✓ Lift the tongue tip behind the front teeth and spread the tongue's sides to the upper back molars. Smile and guide the air straight out the front of the mouth.
- ✓ Voice is turned OFF for /s/.

#### *Need More Help?*

- ☞ Pretend the tongue is a snake trapped in a cage as a fun reminder to keep the tongue behind the teeth – don't let the snake out!
- ☞ Avoid "slushy" sounds by shaping /s/ from a /t/. Make a "Long T" or a "Lazy T" by prolonging the burst of air created by /t/ (e.g. /t—t—tss/). Select final /ts/ words for more practice (e.g. its)

### Common Errors

- ✗ /t/, /d/ or "sh"
- ✗ interdental error or lateral distortion

## Classroom Strategies

1. Model correct speech in response to some of the student's errors. Use emphasis and point to your mouth to highlight the corrected sound ("Did you save your work?").
2. Point out the different sounds in print (e.g. "Look, 'sun' has your practice sound.").
3. Create a small list of functional, key words for you and your student to practice together in their classroom routines. Write the words on a cue card or sticky note as a reminder.
  - a. Can you think of any words that you use in your daily lessons that contain /s/?
  - b. Does the student have a classmate whose name contains /s/?
  - c. Are there any weekly vocabulary or spelling words that contain /s/?
4. Offer choices for correct responding to discussion questions (e.g. "Are these two the 'dame' or the 'same?"). Place emphasis on the correct sound.
5. Remember to acknowledge the student's attempts to communicate. Show interest in what they are saying and give them extra time to respond, as needed.