

Eliciting Correct Production of the /r/ Sound

Production of the /r/ sound is widely varied amongst speakers. It is dependent on what precedes or succeeds it in a word production. The tongue tip is usually curled toward the roof of the mouth to make this sound. A common substitution for /r/ is /w/. To help correct this substitution, have the child smile to keep the lips apart while making the /r/ sound.

** Of special note about learning to produce accurate /r/. Research has found that the tongue has the most rapid rate of growth between the ages of 5.5 - 7.5 years. While producing /r/, we rely totally on kinesthetic and proprioceptive feedback (i.e. we need to rely on feel vs. sight) because the tongue makes no contact anywhere in the mouth to produce /r/. During this rapid growth time, the feedback received may literally change from week to week. Therefore this makes it a more difficult sound to teach for correction at earlier ages. Be patient.

Initial /r/ words

raft	rat	rim	roast	rope
rag	red	rind	robe	rug
rain	reed	rink	rocks	rust
rake	reel	rip	roll	wreath
ranch	rice	road	roots	write

Final /r/ words

bear	core	floor	more	shore
boar	deer	fur	pair	square
car	door	hair	pier	stairs
choir	ear	here	pour	star
chore	fire	jar	scar	tire

*** *Here* is often an early word that goes unnoticed because it carries no emotional context.