

Progressive /r/ Treatment Guideline

1. Teach the prevocalic (before the vowel) /r/ first by having the child smile while making a growling /r/ sound. Do not let the child round their lips while producing the /r/ sound at the beginning of the word. Allow them to watch their mouth in a mirror if necessary.

Run	Rut	Rust
Raw	Rock	Rot
Rad	Rap	Rat
Read	Reach	Ream
Red	Rent	Rest
Rich	Rim	Rip
Race	Rake	Rate
Ride	Ripe	Right
***Rude	***Room	***Roof
***Rode	***Rope	***Robe

***These words will be harder as the child will have to transition from a smile during the /r/ to rounded lips during the following vowel sound (/o/ or /u/). Make the child go slow during the transition so they can see both the smile and then the rounded lips and not just one or the other.

2. Once the child has become fairly accurate producing /r/ in the initial prevocalic (before the vowel) position. Help the child move to prevocalic vowels in the middle position of words. These are not all real words - but these sound combinations are picked very specifically to help children transition their prevocalic /r/ to other /r/ forms.

Air-ree	Ear-ree	Ar-ree	Ir-ree	Or-ree	RR-ree
Air-raw	Ear-raw	Ar-raw	Ir-raw	Or-raw	RR-raw
Air-ruh	Ear-ruh	Ar-ruh	Ir-ruh	Or-ruh	RR-ruh



3. Continue the previous learned sound combinations as learned in #2 - but start to minimize and shorten the final vowel sound (ee, aw, and uh). This way you are reducing the vowel that follows the middle /r/ to try to transition the child into an /r/ in the final position of words. However, children often rely on the final vowel to help them get the /r/ correct - so if they begin missing the /r/ sound - go back to emphasizing the final vowel sound. Continue to try reducing or eliminating the final vowel sound as the child become more comfortable with the /r/ sound. Don't be afraid to move back and forth to the easier (steps 1 and 2) and harder versions of the practice (steps 3 and 4) as the child needs. And only move on to this step if the child is successful.

Air-ree	Ear-ree	Ar-ree	Ir-ree	Or-ree	RR-ree
Air-raw	Ear-raw	Ar-raw	Ir-raw	Or-raw	RR-raw
Air-ruh	Ear-ruh	Ar-ruh	Ir-ruh	Or-ruh	RR-ruh

4. Once the child has become successful at producing the /r/ in the medial position with a minimized or shortened vowel sound at the end. Try to transition the child to be able to eliminate the final vowel sound completely. Again - don't be afraid to move back to step 3 or 2 if this step is too hard. The child will need a lot of practice in the previous steps before they will be successful at this step.

Air-rrr	Ear-rrr	Ar-rrr	Ir-rrr	Or-rrr	RR-rrr
Air-rrr	Ear-rrr	Ar-rrr	Ir-rrr	Or-rrr	RR-rrr
Air-rrr	Ear-rrr	Ar-rrr	Ir-rrr	Or-rrr	RR-rrr

5. Once the child is successful with step 4- they should be able to produce all types of /r/ in all positions of words and sentences. If you move on to practice random/mixed words and phrases and it is too difficult for the child. Move back to an easier step and have the child practice more.

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