



How to help a child to say "rrr"

You will need to do plenty of listening and ear tuning first. The first step is to practice listening for the difference between w and r when you say them on their own.

Write "r" and "w" on two cards and put them in front of the child.

Say www and then rrrr several times each and ask the child to put a counter on the one that you say.

NB. Remember to say the sound without a vowel after it, in other words, "www" not "wuh".

Now put two minimal pair word cards in front of the child e.g. ring and wing. You will find these in "Get the Wight One"

Say one of the words clearly, exaggerating the "rrr" or "ww" sound as you do so.

Ask the child to point to, or put a counter on the picture of the one you say.

Gradually decrease the amount of exaggeration of your "w" and "rrr" sound until the child can get it right even with normal speech.

Say a list of words that begin with either "r" or "w" and ask the child to point to the letter of that the word starts with.

Now help him to say "rr"

- Keeping the lips spread in a smile will help because this makes production of "w" more difficult
- Use a mirror if necessary
- Practise licking the alveolar ridge (just behind the top teeth) then curl the tongue back slightly
- Tell the child that the tongue tip is tight
- It may help to say a long "zzzzzzz" then open the jaw gradually - as the teeth separate an "r" sound may result
- Try a long "nnnnn" and then curl the tongue back
- Try a long sound (the sound in the middle of "measure") and then rub the tongue back over the alveolar ridge (just behind the teeth at the top of the mouth)

Blending "r" with a vowel

It is easier to make nonsense syllables not words.

E.g. r eeee, r ooooo, r air, r ur etc.

Putting the sounds into words

Practice saying words that start with the sound.

Putting the words into sentences

Now make up a sentence with each of the words in it. Practice these sentences.

Play the games provided to encourage carryover into everyday speech e.g. board game, dominoes.