

# R Sound Speech Therapy Activities Handout

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Practicing the R sound can be engaging and fun with a variety of activities. Here are some creative ideas to make speech therapy sessions enjoyable:

1. **Sensory bin search:** Hide articulation cards in a sensory bin filled with various textures. Students can find the cards and practice the R sound, enhancing their sensory exploration and articulation skills simultaneously.
2. **Scavenger hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt for objects around the school that contain the R sound. Provide a checklist or bingo card for students to mark off items as they find and pronounce them, encouraging active participation.
3. **Bean bag toss:** Set up a game where students toss a bean bag at articulation cards placed on the floor or wall. Each time they hit a card, they must say the word on it correctly, combining physical activity with speech practice.
4. **Popper toy fun:** Pair articulation cards with a popper toy. When a student pops the toy, they pick a card and practice the word, adding an element of surprise and excitement to the session.
5. **Bouncy ball target:** Tape articulation cards to a wall and have students hit them with a bouncy ball. Each hit card must be pronounced correctly, making the activity dynamic and engaging.
6. **Map search:** Use a world map to find and mark locations or landmarks with names containing the R sound. Students can practice saying these names, integrating geography with speech practice.
7. **Magazine hunt:** Give students magazines or grocery ads to find and cut out words or pictures with the R sound. They can then create a collage and practice saying the words they found, enhancing their visual and verbal skills.
8. **Story search:** Print short stories or child-friendly news articles. Have students highlight or circle words containing the R sound, then practice reading those words in context to improve their reading and articulation skills.
9. **Craft activities:** Engage in a craft project where students create something related to the R sound, like a rainbow or a rabbit. They can label their creations with words that contain the R sound, making the activity both creative and educational.
10. **Worksheet fun:** Use daubers or stampers on articulation worksheets. Each time a student stamps a word, they must say it correctly, turning the practice into a fun, interactive game.
11. **Tic-tac-toe:** Play tic-tac-toe with a twist – instead of Xs and Os, use words with the R sound. Students must say the word correctly before they can place their mark, combining strategy with speech practice.
12. **Dry erase dice:** Write articulation words on the sides of a dry erase dice. Students roll the dice and say the word that lands face up, making the practice session more dynamic and varied.
13. **Theraputty search:** Hide small objects or cards with the R sound in theraputty. Students must find and say each item, which also helps with their fine motor skills.
14. **Play dough smash mats:** Use play dough mats with articulation words. Students roll and smash play dough onto the words while saying them, incorporating tactile feedback into their practice.
15. **Morning announcements:** Have students practice reading the morning announcements or a book report, focusing on the R sound. Recording their practice can help them self-assess and improve their pronunciation.
16. **Wordless picture books:** Use wordless picture books and have students create a story, incorporating as many R words as they can. This encourages creativity and vocabulary building.

17. **Hopscotch:** Draw a hopscotch grid and write articulation words in each square. Students must say the word correctly before hopping to the next square, combining physical activity with speech practice.
  18. **Yoga moves:** Pair speech sound words with yoga moves or stretches. For each pose, students must say an R word, combining physical balance with speech practice.
  19. **Fly swatter game:** Lay out multiple articulation cards on a table. Say a word, and students must find and swat the correct card with a fly swatter, making it a fast-paced and interactive game.
  20. **Matching game:** Create a memory game with articulation picture cards. Students must find and match pairs, saying each word they flip over, enhancing both memory and speech skills.
  21. **Drawing and writing:** Have students write the R word, say it, then draw a picture representing the word on a flash card. This multi-step process reinforces the word through writing, speaking, and drawing.
  22. **Puppet feeding:** Use a puppet to "eat" cards with target articulation words. Students can feed the puppet while saying the words, making the activity playful and engaging.
  23. **Letter tiles:** Spell articulation words using letter tiles, then practice saying the word. This helps with both spelling and articulation practice.
  24. **Simple catch:** Play catch with a ball, saying a target word each time the ball is thrown. Use different types of balls to vary the activity and keep it interesting.
  25. **Twister game:** Add articulation words to a Twister game board. Students must say the word correctly as they place their hand or foot on the corresponding spot, combining physical activity with speech practice.
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## Specific activities for correcting the R sound

Here are five effective strategies designed to help with R sound articulation:

### Correcting vocalic R

Vocalic R errors can be challenging for children to correct. One effective strategy involves breaking down the R sound into its components and practicing each part separately. For example, practicing the "er" sound by itself before combining it with other sounds can help. Using a mirror to show tongue placement and movement visually can also be beneficial.

**Sample activity:** Have the child practice saying "er" while looking in a mirror, focusing on tongue placement and movement. Gradually combine this with other sounds, such as "ber" and "ter."

### R blends articulation practice

Practicing R blends can significantly help children with the R sound. Activities can include using flashcards or worksheets that focus on initial R blends such as /br/, /kr/, /dr/, etc. Incorporating fun themes, like dinosaurs, can make these exercises more engaging.

**Sample activity:** Create a dinosaur-themed worksheet where children match R blend words to corresponding pictures, like "brontosaurus" for /br/ and "dragon" for /dr/.

### Minimal pair activities for gliding

Minimal pair activities are useful for addressing phonological processes like gliding. These activities involve pairs of words where one word contains the target sound and the other contains the error sound, helping children distinguish between them.

**Sample activity:** Use word pairs like "red" and "wed" to practice the R sound. Have the child listen and identify which word is pronounced correctly, then practice saying it themselves.

## **Articulation through play**

Incorporating play into articulation practice can make sessions more enjoyable. Activities like puppet shows, interactive games, and story creation can be very effective.

**Sample activity:** Use a puppet show to practice R sounds. Have the puppet say target words and encourage the child to repeat them, integrating the words into a fun narrative.

## **Rhyming games**

Rhyming games are excellent for practicing the R sound while also improving phonemic awareness. Games can involve drawing cards with words and finding or creating rhymes.

**Sample activity:** Draw a card with a word like "star" and ask the child to find or think of words that rhyme, such as "car" and "jar." Turn it into a challenge to see how many rhymes they can find.