

Gliding Minimal Pairs

/r/ and /l/ get replaced by /w/ or /y/.

RESOLVES

Gliding of /l/ by 5;0

PAIRS

12

SOUNDS

r, l

The liquids /r/ and /l/ are the last consonants most children master, and they are the hardest to see. A child cannot watch you make an /r/ the way they can watch you make a /p/, and the tongue shape for /r/ is genuinely complicated. Glides like /w/ and /y/ get the vowel-ish quality approximately right while skipping the difficult tongue work.

Try this: For /l/, have the child bite very gently on the tip of their tongue and hum - the sound that comes out is nearly a perfect /l/. For /r/, the tongue is the whole job: cue the sides tight against the back teeth and the back of the tongue pulled toward the throat, then add the growl.

/r/ (6 pairs)

TARGET

ring
rock
robe

CHILD SAYS

> wing

> wok

> wobe *

TARGET

carrot
berry
mirror

CHILD SAYS

> cawwot *

> bewwy *

> miwwow *

/l/ (6 pairs)

TARGET

light
lock
lawn

CHILD SAYS

> white

> wok

> yawn

TARGET

yellow
balloon
pillow

CHILD SAYS

> yewwow *

> bawwoon *

> piwwow *

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it