



R-BLENDS @ HOME

R-blends are created by combining a consonant + the /r/ sound. Here are some examples of r-blends:

br: **b**rown, **b**rush, **b**read

pr: **p**rize, **p**retty, **p**rincess

fr: **f**rog, **f**rown, **f**ree

tr: **t**rain, **t**ree, **t**ry

dr: **d**rive, **d**rop, **d**rink

gr: **g**reen, **g**reat, **g**rape

cr: **c**rown, **c**ry, **c**rayon

Your child may be working on one or more r-blends at a time. Check with your child's SLP to see which ones you should start with.

Some r-blends develop before others. Children usually learn to say r-blends correctly between ages 5 and 7.

Your child may learn to say some r-blends before they can say the /r/ sound on its own.

How do you make it?

The first step in helping your child develop r-blends is by providing lots of chances for them to hear the sound. The more you use it, the more you are helping your child learn!

The /r/ sound can be made 2 different ways:

- Pulling the tongue back into a 'bunched' position
- Flipping the tip of the tongue back into a 'retroflex' position

Search "Retroflex R vs. Bunched R" on YouTube for a video model

It is important when practicing /r/ blends not to add an extra vowel sound in between the first consonant and the /r/



train



tuh-rain

Daily Practice Ideas

Day 1: Read or listen to a book like this one:

"Green Eggs and Ham"

Day 2: Sing a song together, like this one:

"Five Green and Speckled Frogs"

Day 3: Go on a treasure hunt around the house.

Look for: **grapes, broccoli, dress, truck, drum, crayons, princess, brush and more!**

Day 4: Play I spy with my little eye:

I spy something...

brown/green/grey

Day 5: Fun with Foods !

Taste something that is...

crunchy, crispy, greasy, frozen, green, gross, dry, fried, brittle, fresh...

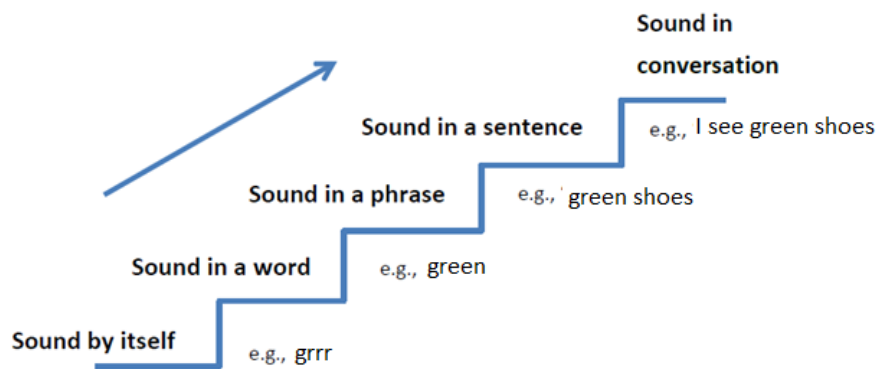
See back of page for additional information and resources!

How can you help?

- Get face to face with your child when playing so they can hear and see what your mouth is doing.
- Use the sound in daily routines. For example, "Elsa is a **pr**incess! **Pr**incess starts with our special sound."
- When your child says an r-blend word incorrectly, say it back to them and emphasize the correct pronunciation (e.g., Child: "That baby is cwyng" Parent: "You're right he is **crrr**yng. I wonder what made him **crrr**y.")

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Steps for Practicing



More fun activity ideas...

- **Find pictures of simple words that start with r-blends.** You can practice by:
 - Mixing them with pictures of words that do NOT start with an r-blend. Hide both sets of pictures around the house. Each time your child finds a picture they must be a 'sound detective' and decide if it starts with their special sound or not.
 - Using 2 copies of each picture and playing a memory game
 - Choosing a 'secret' picture – your child has to guess which one you are thinking of (then they get to choose a picture and you guess!)
- **Playing "What Sound is it Mr. Wolf"**
 - Instead of asking 'What time is it Mr. Wolf?' the children ask 'What sound is it Mr. Wolf?'. If the wolf says a word that starts with their special sound, the child takes a step forward.

