

## TIPS FOR USING LET'S LEARN R

The power of **Let's Learn R** is that it is an excellent tool for increasing frequency and accuracy of practice in a way that keeps children motivated and focused on correcting R. This is accomplished through the use of 40 different highly interactive short games. This is what makes **Let's Learn R** a unique learning tool. Children enjoy interacting with the program and don't get bored through long and repetitive drills. The program's 32 Practice Sessions are phonetically controlled to provide specific training for Prevocalic and Vocalic R sounds. Here are some general suggestions for using the **Let's Learn R** and its companion program the **Deep R Probe**.

**You can use the Deep R Probe to provide a detailed profile of students' R productions across 9 variations of R.** You can administer the Deep R Probe after a standardized articulation test as part of an assessment and report the results in an evaluation report. You can also administer it during a therapy session just before you start to work on R.

**After completing the Deep R Probe you can use the Practice Printouts for stimulability testing.** Identify the variations of R on the Deep R Probe in need of remediation with the highest percentage scores. Then use the Practice Printout sheets for these sounds to test for stimulability. The type of R that is the most stimuable can be chosen for the first speech target. For students that score 0% on the Deep R Probe, use the Practice Printouts for the Beginning (Prevocalic) R and the AR sound. These are often the easiest R sounds to stimulate.

**For students who are not stimuable for any variation of R, provide skilled training until the student becomes stimuable.** Skilled training by a speech-language pathologist can include auditory discrimination activities, sound placement instructions and oral-motor exercises that build the capacity to produce R. You can also use the Practice Printout sheets to find facilitating contexts.

**Re-administer the Deep R Probe at intervals throughout training to track progress and to choose the next speech target.** You will be pleased to find that generalization has occurred to untrained variations of R. You can then identify the type of R in need of remediation with the highest percentage to train next. Re-administration of the Deep R Probe is an invaluable tool for streamlining the process of correcting R. Results can be included in progress reports.

**You need to have the disc in the disk drive when working with Let's Learn R, but not with the Deep R Probe.** If you have already installed the Deep R Probe CD-ROM on your computer, then just double click on the icon on your computer screen. When the box comes up asking you to insert a disc, just click on the READY button.

**If you are not sure which Let's Learn R disc to use, look at the left hand lower corner of the CD cases.** Then to locate your desired Lesson and Practice Session, click on the **INFO** button on the Lesson Control Panel and you can view the Program Content screen. You can also consult page 2 of the Let's Learn R User Manual.

**While working on Let's Learn R directly with students give verbal feedback** after each response at first. Then reduce positive feedback to a variable schedule.

**While working directly on Let's Learn R with students pause the program** when students give an incorrect response, then work face-to-face or with a mirror to elicit the correct production. Do not allow students to "get away" with incorrect or distorted R sounds. You will find that most students' speech productions increase in frequency of accuracy as they are working through a practice session. Students that cannot maintain at least 80% accuracy during a Practice Session may be working at a level they are not ready for.

**While working with students on Let's Learn R, provide monitoring opportunities.** You can take turns with students giving responses and have them judge your responses as correct or incorrect. Make incorrect responses on purpose. This works especially well with the Happy/Sad face activities. You can also have students judge their own and other students' responses.

**Careful Practice:** Some R students may need to repeat the speech targets in Let's Learn R slowly and carefully using an elongated R sound. There is usually enough time provided for this type of response in the program. For students that need more time, use the pause button.

**Massed Practice:** Students who can consistently produce the speech targets correctly at a normal speaking rate can increase their frequency of practice by repeating the speech targets in Let's Learn R multiple times. For example, when the program gives instructions to say "art," the student could say "art, art, art." Syllables can be repeated from 3 up to 9 times, words can be repeated 2 or 3 times, phrases can be repeated 2 or 3 times and sentences can be repeated 2 times.

**Students can work independently on Let's Learn R** when they can maintain 80% accuracy or greater level with the speech targets. Independent students can be asked to keep track of their own correct productions. A hand held counter works well.

**You can use the Practice Printouts sheets after training on Let's Learn R to test for independent productions and to send home.** After students finish a Let's Learn

R Practice Session, take out the Practice Printout sheet for that Practice Session. Ask students to show how well they can say their speech targets all by themselves. You could then send the Practice Printout sheets home with the students. Let them know that they will earn a reward if they return the next session being able to say all the speech targets on the Practice Printout sheet with 100% accuracy!

**Make one colored set of the Practice Printout sheets** and place them in plastic covers in a binder. This makes a handy resource for a variety of purposes described in this article. It is also useful to print out a set of the Practice Printouts for each new R student.

**Promote use of Let's Learn R between therapy sessions and/or when students take a break from therapy.** Let's Learn R is the perfect practice vehicle for increasing retention between therapy sessions. For this purpose, purchase copies of the program to be lent out to parents and/or made available at computer stations at the school and/or have parents buy their own copy. As it is never a good idea to practice incorrectly, assign specific Practice Sessions to be worked on only after students demonstrate 80% accuracy on the speech targets.

By Robin Violette, M.A.CCC-SLP

Violette Learning Company Phone: 1-800-986-0405 [www.violettelearning.com](http://www.violettelearning.com)