

Speech Sound Carryover: Highlight and Read

Students work on their speech sounds in isolation (the sound alone), in single words, and in sentences. In the speech therapy setting, these sounds are easier to keep track of because speech is the main focus.

Outside of speech therapy, students are more focused on the content of their messages. You may still hear errors in conversation even though they can make the appropriate sounds in other contexts, because it's much harder to keep track of individual sounds in longer connected speech.

One way to track speech sounds within connected speech is during reading:

1. Choose a passage, article, or story at your child's reading level.
2. Highlight their target sound, or ask them to highlight it themselves.
3. Have them read aloud, slowing down when they see the highlighted words so they can focus on adjusting their speech sound.

EXAMPLE: vocalic R (/er/)

In October, a dog was spotted on top of an ancient pyramid in Egypt. A video of the dog got millions of views online.

The video left people wondering how the dog managed to climb the pyramid. It is 450 feet tall, which is taller than a 30-story building! More importantly, people wondered whether the dog got down safely.

The video was taken by Marshall Mosher. He was flying in the air using a paraglider. (A paraglider is an inflatable wing that people use for gliding in the air. It looks a bit like a long, skinny parachute.)

(taken from [Newsela.com](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/newsela.com/))



Sources for reading passages:

- Library books, anything your child reads for fun
- Class reading assignments
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- [Newsela.com](https://newsela.com/) - requires account (free); includes options to adjust reading level

In speech, we use the following tools to highlight texts without marking them directly:



Plastic page protectors



Wet-erase markers

1. Place a printout inside a plastic page protector, or place the page protector over a page in your child's chosen book. It may be helpful to use a paperclip to keep the page from moving if you're placing the protector on top of the book.
2. Use the wet-erase marker to highlight (yellow or orange are recommended) or underline the target sounds in a paragraph or on one page.
3. Have your child read through the highlighted text, slowing down whenever they see the highlighted target sound.
4. When they are done with a section, use a slightly damp paper towel to wipe away the highlight marks and reuse the paper protector as needed.

Follow your child's lead for books / topics they are interested in!