Gliding Minimal Pairs

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



RESOLVES
Gliding of /l/ by 5;0 · Gliding of /r/ by 6;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		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **ring**	>	 wing	 **carrot**	>	cawwot *
 **rock**	>	 wok	 **berry**	>	bewwy *
 **robe**	>	wobe *	 **mirror**	>	miwwow *

/l/ (6 pairs)

TARGET		CHILD SAYS	TARGET		CHILD SAYS
 **light**	>	 white	 **yellow**	>	yewwow *
 **lock**	>	 wok	 **balloon**	>	bawwoon *
 **lawn**	>	 yawn	 **pillow**	>	piwwow *

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