DR Blend Word List

Tongue tip up for /d/, then pull it straight back into the R shape. Many speakers naturally say DR a little like "jr" - that is normal and fine.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/dr/	By age 5-7	Voiced Stop + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

Do not over-correct the slight "j" quality in DR. Adults say "jrum" too.

DR does not occur often in the middle or at the end of English words, so this page practices it at the beginning.

Initial Position (22 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


dress


drum


drive


draw


drink


drop


dream


drill

These and 6 more pictured words are in the DR Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

14 words

dress	draw	dry	drawer	drove
drum	drink	dream	drift	drip
drive	drop	drill	drone	

2 Syllables

7 words

dragon	dribble	drumstick	dresser
driveway	drizzle	dropper	

3 Syllables

1 word

dragonfly

High-frequency initial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

drink, drive, driving, drinking, dropped, draw, drinks, drove, drew, drawing, drank, dropping, drives, drops, draws

Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Drumming

Drum on pots, boxes and a real drum. Copy each other's rhythms.

Words that come up: drum, drumming, drop, drive, draw, again, more, loud, fast, slow, my turn, stop, bang, hands

Drawing together

Draw on a big sheet of paper. Take requests for what to draw next.

Words that come up: draw, drawing, drew, dress, dragon, drop, more, again, look, big, color, my turn, done, line

Drink stand

Run a pretend drink stand. Pour, serve, take orders.

Words that come up: drink, drip, drop, dry, dress, pour, more, please, thirsty, again, cup, spill, wet, thank you

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Dream job

Describe a dream job or dream house in detail.

Draw and describe

One person draws while the other gives directions.