(The Speechie Show Ep.2)

Welcome to the Speechie Show! Being a speech language pathologist often means having too much work and not enough planning time. To beat the overwhelm, we’re bringing you the tricks and tools that will make your job a little bit easier.

**Carrie**: Alright, hello everyone and welcome to the second episode of The Speechie Show. I am your host Carrie Clark and I am here today with Christine Ristuccia, how are you Christine?

**Christine:** Good, how are you doing Carrie?

**Carrie:** Good. Christine is from Say it Right and she here with me to talk about “r” today. So, we are going to get into that in just a minute, but before we get started, I’m going to tell you a little bit about your host today, your co-host. I am Carrie Clark. I am from SpeechandLanguagesKids.com and this is The Speechie Show. We will be interviewing guests from other speech therapy websites and other speech language pathologists in the field, and today we have Christine with us. So, Christine, will you tell us a little bit about yourself?

**Christine:**  I’m a school-based speech language pathologist and I have over 16 years of experience and I also am the owner and creator of The Entire World of R. It’s a phonemic approach to r remediation. So we develop screening tools and educational materials for speech pathologists to work on articulation disorders, language. All sorts of resources and fun things for you to do with speech and language kids.

**Carrie:** Excellent.

**Christine:**  The primary flagship product is The Entire World of R.

**Carrie:**  Yeah, so that’s how I heard about you was from the r stuff, because I had a, when I had my first r client I was like “ok I need some help”. So, I started looking online and that was how I found it too.

For those of you who are on with us live on Facebook live, if you could type in and tell us how feel about treating the r sound. So, are you pretty thumbs up confident about it or are you kind of stressed out about r and are needing some help? So, go ahead and type in if you are with us live on Facebook and want to chime in how you feel about the r sound.

Ok so today we’re going to talk about the 5 steps to treating r, and are these from your Entire World of R approach? Is that what these are from Christine?

**Christine:** Yes

**Carrie:**  Ok. So, we have 5 steps that we’re going to talk about today and the first one is about evaluating all 32 allophones. Now Christine tell us a little bit about what that means exactly.

**Christine:** Well, Carrie, typically speech pathologists, I work on just with traditional articulation tests such as the Goldman-Fristoe test like that, and that’s a really test for determining eligibility whether the student qualifies for speech pathology or speech therapy services. However, I’ve noticed that it has such a limited approach to looking at the 32 r allophones. It doesn’t look at all 32 r allophones. So, then the second tier of looking at the 32 r allophones, is the Entire World of R screening tools and those help you to determine a student’s strength.

So sometimes, I’ll have students come in my room and I’ll listen to them in conversational speech, and they have, their i’s are rolling or they sound like they have an English accent and I’m not hearing any correct r’s, but then I’ll do the screening. I’ll look for their straights and 95-100% of the time we can find at least one r that they can do and then we have a starting point which is awesome.

**Carrie:**  Ok, so you say there are 32 different “r” allophones. For those of you who are watching who don’t know what that means, what are all the 32 different variations of r? Or, you know, you don’t have to go through every single one, but kind of give us an overview.

**Christine:** Well you have the r’s at the beginning, like pre-vocalic r, red and run and raise. Then there’s 13 vocalic r’s. Typically, speech pathologist group them into one category, but there’s actually six categories and then there’s three word variations for each of those and then you have that tricky medial and final rl sound, and then the initial r blends, so.

**Carrie:** So, when you say grouping the vocalic r’s that’s like ear, air, ir, or, are all grouped into different groups and then there’s initial, medial and final, right?

**Christine:** Yes.

**Carrie:** Ok. So, yeah, there’s a ton of different r’s which makes it so tricky to teach the r sound just cause they’re all pronounced a little bit different right?

**Christine**: Right. There pronounced differently and then the vowel in front of the r changes the placement. So sometimes like with the t or and s sound, the tongue is always behind the alveolar ridge, but with the r sound, that’s not the case.

**Carrie:** It moves around.

**Christine:** Each of the r allophones and the word position, so it makes it pretty tricky.

**Carrie:** Yeah. Alright so the next step would be then, after evaluating all of those 32 allophones, would be to choose a correct production. So how do you go about doing that?

**Christine:** Well after you’ve done the screening tool, your listening and actually being a detective. So, a lot of times I use to do this where I’d say “no, no, no, I’m not hearing a correct production”, and now I listen for an almost correct production or something that’s close. Or a correct production and then I write those words down on a word list and I use them for warm up, homework and a place to start.

**Carrie:** Ok.

**Christine:**  I think the most important piece is not being hyper critical of the student but actually listening for some opportunities of starting places. Otherwise you don’t have a place to start and it becomes a struggle.

**Carrie:** Yeah. So, what do you say for those therapists that are saying “well ok, I’ve had him say ear words and ar words and or words and they all sound terrible and he has no good productions”, what do you say to that?

**Christine:** I say, “did you do this screening?”

**Carrie:**  And the screenings you’re referring to are your screenings right, for The Entire World of R?

**Christine:** Right. I have a single word screening, which takes 5 minutes and I have an advance screening, which could take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. There’s two parts to the advance screening. Obviously, you can also make up your own screening tool, um, that’s always an option as well.

**Carrie:** But you just want to look at all of those 32 and see if there’s one those different variations that the child is able to produce in some word, right?

**Christine:** Right, because that gives you a starting point. It gives you placement. It gives you an opportunity to show the student where they’re successful and the you have a starting point. So, you can actually have a target to work on production practice.

**Carrie:** And have you ever found a kid that did not have a good r in there somewhere?

**Christine:** I have not found that, but I have had to dig sometimes and be a detective where I’ve had kids who have been in r therapy for a while and had a few therapists and they have anxiety. They’re not happy about being in speech therapy, so when I redo the screening tool, sometimes I have use the second part of the advanced screening where more non (the audio cuts out briefly here) words and facilitating context. It’s only happened a couple of times.

**Carrie:** Yeah.

**Christine:** Most of the time I do a lot of consulting work and I’ll have therapists say “Oh he’s a doozer, he can’t do this”. So, I go in with my screening tool. I ignore all the other things I’m hearing them do and the facial expressions they have and I’m really listening for that correct production.

**Carrie:**  Ok, so then once you find a correct production, one that they can say correctly, then the third step is to choose targets based off of those screening results. So, tell me how you go about doing that.

**Christine:** Well I typically write down all of the words, like I mentioned before, I’m listening for the, almost correct productions and the correct productions and I’ll write them down on a list and I’ll ask the student to say the words again and I’ll listen for the best production. I’ll ask the student what they feel is the most comfortable production for them and then we match that particular r allophone with production practice lists, which are in the books of Say It Right. You could go online, but just make sure that you are phonetically using the same word list.

So, for example if you have like a ar in the initial position as your target, then your production practice lists are going to have like Archie, Argentina, armadillo, arm, words like that. Staying phonetically consistent in the same word position. So, that’s really helpful. So, you work on ear training, how it feels, that kinesthetic awareness and you could make a lot of rapid progress with that.

**Carrie:**  Ok, so then that goes into our 4th step, which is using phonetically consistent production practice using that chosen target. So, that’s like what you were talking about with the ar example of using other words that use that same r in the same part of the word, correct?

**Christine:** Yes, exactly.

**Carrie:**  Ok and then the 5th step that you had for us is to stay consistent and to rescreen and to check for generalization. Tell me how that looks.

**Christine:** When you do your production practice, we typically go 80% of the sentence level for that particular target and once I’ve reached that target, I’ll rescreen again and most of the time I’ll have r’s that were miss-produced before. All lot of them have started to come in. I can’t tell you which ones are going to come in because each student is individual. But then when they do come in, I don’t need to work on those specifically. I can put those on my correctly produced practice list and then I can re-choose another target.

**Carrie:** And you said that was once you get to the sentence level right? With the one that you picked?

**Christine:**  Right, exactly.

**Carrie:** Ok, cool. Well that sounds wonderful. I love those five points and I hope that’s helpful for everybody that’s listening. The next part of the show that we always do is favorite resources. So, tell us about some of your favorite resources for working on r and things that will help our listener get even more value out of this.

**Christine:** Well I love the 8-deck playing set that we have with Say it Right. It’s r cards. There are pairs of cards so you can play go-fish, concentration, things like that. That’s really fun for students. They really love to do that at the end of the drill session that we have. I also like the Entire World of R flip books where you can make up stories and work on different word positions at the same time. There’s literally thousands of combinations within each flip book, so I really enjoy doing that. Um, what else do I like. My favorite is the Entire World of R book of Elicitation Techniques. I use the word list in there all the time. Even though I compiled the word list, I cannot remember all the words.

**Carrie:**  Ha Ha, right! It’s definitely nice to have it in front of you.

**Christine:** Absolutely, so that’s my favorite resource. Of course, I bring it with me everywhere so.

**Carrie:**  Fantastic. Alright so we’re going to have all of those links in the show notes, once this video goes over to the website over at SpeechandLanguageKids.com. So, you guys can head over there once the video is live on the website and you can get the links to all of her favorite resources.

But now we’re going to do a giveaway. So, if you’re on here with us live, don’t run off because you might win. So, for our giveaway today, we’re going to have two winners. The first one is going to win two free months in my membership program. So, if you’re not familiar with that, my membership is called the speech therapy solution and the speech therapy solution is my membership for only speech language pathologists. You get access to weekly Q&A calls, a monthly webinar. You get access to a Facebook group so you can get help with your tough cases in there. And then there’s a whole library of training videos and another library full of print and go materials. So, it's’ a really, really good benefit. You have a ton of good stuff in there. That’s the speech therapy solution, and we’re going to giveaway two free months in that to somebody who is watching live. And then Christine tell us about what you’re giving away to the winner for your giveaway.

**Christine:** Well, Carrie, on Friday is the launch of the R Makeover course and it’s a series of four modules and one module will be released per week. It’s all about the r sound and working on the 10 steps. I’ve shared 5 steps here today, but we actually have 5 more steps and winner will have access to the modules for the entire school year. Which is awesome, and we’re going to have a Facebook support page. So, everybody in the R Makeover course is going to be able to post questions on Facebook. I’ll be answering them once a week. You’ll be able to bounce ideas off me and off your colleagues and have that support which is amazing. It’s really fun to be able to do that.

**Carrie:**  That is fantastic. Ok, so first person to answer my question gets two free months in the speech therapy solution, which is my site. The second person to answer my question, correctly I should say...you have to answer correctly, will get access to Christine’s new course on R, The R Makeover course. They will get access to that for free. So, here’s the question. Are you guys ready? Ready to type it in?

Alright the question is…. How many allophones of R are there? How many allophones of R.

Type in your answer. The first two are going to win the giveaways. How many allophones of R. I feel like we need Jeopardy music right here. See if somebody answers.

**Christine:** That would be great.

**Carrie:** Well while we are waiting for someone to answer, we hope...oh here we go, we got it. Ok so Mary Sue has 32. So, we giveaway the answer, so the next person to write the exact same thing also gets to win the giveaway. Mary Sue has got it. Ok so Mary Sue is going to win my membership, the two free months. So, you can get that by emailing me at Carrie@speechandlanguagekids.com. The next person to answer the question gets access to the R Makeover course for free. So, if you are in here live and you know how many allophones of R there are, type in your answer so you can win.

Ok, so we hope that helps you with your tricky r cases. If you have other tricky cases that you need help with, you can definitely access me through the speech therapy solution. You can go over to SpeechandLanguageKids.com/join and that will get you access to all the details about the speech therapy solution.

And Carlie Riding, Carlie won the second prize. So, Carlie’s going to get access to the R Makeover course. Christine how can she reach you to get ahold of that?

**Christine:**  Support@sayitright.org

**Carrie:**  Support@sayitright.org. Ok so Carlie you need to email that. Mary Sue, you need to email me at Carrie@speechandlanguagekids.com.

Awesome! Ok, let’s see...I think that’s all we had for today. Christine how can people find out more about you and Say It Right and The Entire World of R and Your R Makeover course? How can they find all that?

**Christine:**  They can go to [www.sayitright.org](http://www.sayitright.org). We have all of our products on there and for The R Makeover course, support@satitright.org.

**Carrie:** Ok, so they can email you and get access or information about joining that course, right?

**Christine:** Yes.

**Carrie:**  Perfect. Alright, well thank you so much for joining with me today Christine. I’m so glad to have you on the show for our second episode and first guest. Alright and thank you to everyone who was able to watch live and we’ll catch you next week on another episode of The Speechie Show.

Thanks so much and we’ll see you guys later...bye bye.

***Thank you for joining us today on The Speech Show. We hope today’s tips have helped you feel a little less stressed and a little more confident about your work. If you’re looking for more stress busters and confidence boosters, we’d love to have you join us in The Speech Therapy Solution, where you’ll get access to a huge library of premium training videos and another library of print and go therapy materials. You can also get help with your tough cases by Carrie on the weekly Q&A calls, or by posting in the exclusive Facebook group. Plus, group members can join us for a monthly webinar that can be used for a continuing education credit. Head on over to SpeechandLanguageKids.com/join to check out all the amazing benefits of the speech therapy solution membership. Bye for now.***