

RISE Arkansas

An informational newsletter exploring the Science of Reading in Arkansas

January 1, 2023



Issue 23

Reading Resolutions in the New Year!

January is a great time to make new goals and resolutions, but what goals would be right for your family that are easily achievable? According to the most recent [YouGov America Poll](#), the most popular resolutions for 2022 were living healthier (23%), personal improvement and happiness (21%), and losing weight (20%). One crucial area that did not make it into the top responses were goals about reading. Here are a few statistics about reading habits that are eye-opening but they could motivate you and your family to make reading goals your focus during 2023!

- There has been a decline in reading time among Americans from 23 minutes to 17 minutes per day. (Washington Post, 2018)
- People aged 15–44 in the US spend 10 minutes or less per day reading. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021)
- Only 64% of American adults say they have read a book in the past 12 months. (Pew Research Center, 2022)
- Nearly a quarter of adults have not read a book in 1-2 years. Another 11.18% haven't read a book in 3-5 years. (Wordsrated, 2022)

This year, consider making a New Year's Resolution that will increase your family's reading habits and your student's reading ability. Here are a few goals that you might want to claim as your own!



**Read a new book
and tell a friend!**



**Write about
each book you
read.**



**Read one book
from a genre you
don't typically
read.**



**Read at least 30
minutes
everyday.**



**Read one book
each month!**



**Read two books
by the same
author.**



**Read on the go!
Take a book with
you wherever
you go.**



**As a family,
read together
at least once a
week.**



**Start a book
club with your
best friend!**

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RESOLUTIONS**

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4

VOWEL R CARDS

G.U.I.D.E. for Life

In the September RISE Newsletter, we began to explore the G.U.I.D.E. for Life principles. These principles represent skills needed to thrive at home, at school, on the job and in the community. This month's principle is E for Empathy.

EMPATHY

This principle refers to the ability to take the perspective of, and have empathy for others; recognizing and appreciating similarities and differences in others from diverse backgrounds; and appreciating individual and community similarities and differences. Students who are empathetic and socially aware are able to navigate in varying social situations and access and utilize family, school, and community resources and supports.

In early elementary (K-2), I am learning to:

- Use listening skills to identify a range of emotions in others and identify possible causes for a range of emotions in others (e.g., losing a dog may make you "sad")
- Recognize with support that different people may have different emotional reactions to the same event and that my words and actions may have an impact on others
- Understand that different people have different abilities
- Actively listen and be a part of a group so that I can work collaboratively with others
- Show respect when interacting with others by using appropriate manners such as "please/thank you"
- Identify positive qualities in myself that I can use to support others

EMPATHY:

Be Aware of Others.

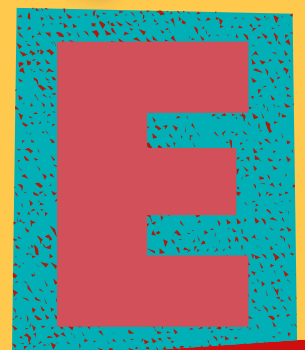
See other perspectives.

Value the feelings of others.

Appreciate diversity.



Check out the DESE Website for more information on G.U.I.D.E. for Life!



IS FOR



Let's Explore a New Syllable Pattern - Vowel R (Vr)

Reading is a code-based system and readers are most successful when they are taught the code. A syllable is a part of a word that contains a single vowel sound and is pronounced as a unit. In this series, we will explain why it is important for readers to learn about syllables and the six different syllable types. We will offer examples and strategies to help emerging readers become more familiar with each syllable type.

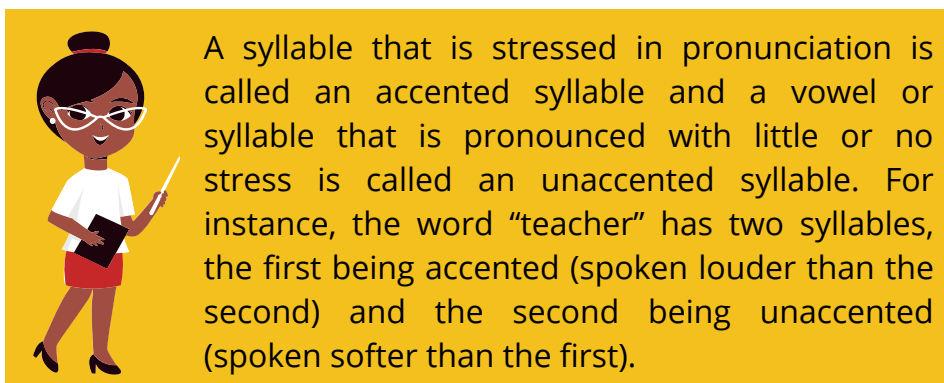
This month we will focus on the Vowel r (Vr) syllable pattern.

In a vowel r syllable, the vowel is followed by the letter r, and the vowel makes an unexpected sound. It's not a long sound or a short sound, but a different sound because it is influenced by the r. Here are a few words that contain the Vr syllable type.



Important things to remember when decoding words with the Vowel r syllable pattern:

- Er, ir, ur are all read /er/. (her, bird, turn)
- Ar is read /ar/ in a one-syllable word like star, or in the accented syllable of a longer word like market.
- Ar is read /er/ in the unaccented syllable like in dollar.
- Or is read /or/ in a one-syllable word like fork, or in the accented syllable of a longer word like order.
- Or is read /er/ when following a w like in word, worth, and worm.
- Or is read /er/ in the unaccented syllable like in tractor.



Something to think about...



When working with your student on this syllable pattern, resist calling it "Bossy R" or "R-controlled vowel." Instead, use the term "Vowel r syllable type." This will help students easily recognize this pattern when decoding and students will be more apt to write words correctly that contain vowel r syllable patterns.



Vowel r Syllable Pattern

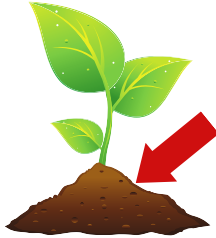
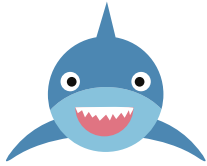
BE A
STAR!

READ

VOWEL
R

WORDS!

Practice reading words with the Vowel r (Vr) syllable pattern. Print this page and cut out all the cards below. Read each word and match it to the correct picture.



cart

fur

turtle



bird

purse

fern



tiger

fork

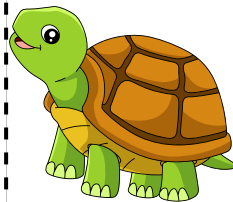
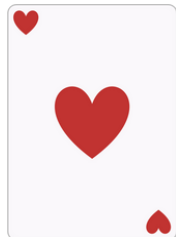
shark



dirt

jar

corn



barn

horn

girl



skirt

card

shirt