



As I begin my 38th year as a school's SLP, I reflect back to my first day on the job. I had perhaps 6 students with /r/ problems and I realized I didn't have the skills to help them. That day shaped my future as I resolved to become an expert on remediating articulation disorders.

What followed was an evolution of trying to figure out how to consistently be effective. One student would do fine using my techniques and the next would have difficulty. It took between 15-20 years to develop the skills that I have and that I've been sharing with other SLPs for the past 13 years. What was extremely gratifying for me was that I was chosen in 2011 by the ASHF as the recipient of the Rolland J. Van Hattum Award, the only national award given to school SLPs. This was primarily due to my development of the SATPAC Program which research is showing remediates sounds in less than half the time of other methods.

The SLPs who attend my workshops describe their educations as being very similar to mine. They learned a lot of theory but lacked the hands on skills to remediate articulation/phonology disorders-particularly with the /r/ and /s/ sounds which make up the bulk of our articulation students.

As I wind down my career, my goal is to hand down to my fellow SLPs successful remediation techniques so that you don't have to do what I did—spend the first 15-20 years of your career trying to figure it out on your own.

I'm excited and passionate about my successes and want to share my knowledge. Some of the things I've noticed are 1) remediating /r/ is easier than most SLPs think; 2) beginning with a proper foundation for /s/ and spending the time needed to accomplish this, leads to quick remediation of /s/ problems (both frontal and lateral) and 3) using a metacognitive approach so that our students understand and can explain what they are doing (either incorrect or correct) speeds up the remediation process and gives our students a sense of control of their own destiny.

After doing a workshop I love getting feedback like "I've been working for months on the /r/ sound with no success and we got an /r/ the first time we tried today" and "I'm now confident I can get an /r/ sound from my students in the first session."

I look forward to our time together in what I hope will be a career-changing workshop.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Sachs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.