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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

What sounds should my child be saying?

Below is a guideline of what you can expect to see in your child's **speech** development. **Speech** is the development of **sounds, patterns** children use to simplify sounds and words (**phonological processes**), and how well you **understand** your child's speech (**intelligibility**). Remember that these are just guidelines and there can be large variation among children. You should consult a speech-language pathologist if you have concerns about your child's speech development.

Emergence of Speech Sounds

Age	Sounds
1-3 years	p, b, t, d, k, g
2-4 years	m, n, ng (as in ring), h, f
3-6 years	v, s, z, sh, j, ch, l, r
6-8 years	th

Intelligibility (with strangers)

Age	Intelligibility
1 year	25%
2 years	50%
3 years	75%
4 years	90-100%

Common Phonological Processes

Process	Description	Disappearance
Assimilation	Changing a sound to another sound in the word, e.g., "tat" for "cat"	Age 3
Voicing	Substitution of a voiced sound for an unvoiced sound, e.g., "gat" for "cat"	Age 3
De-voicing	Substitution of an unvoiced sound for a voiced sound, e.g., "ko" for "go"	Age 3
Final consonant deletion	Omission of the last sound of a word, e.g., "ca" for "cat"	Age 3
Backing	Substitution of a back sound (k, g, ng) for a front sound (t, d, n), e.g., "kop" for "top"	Age 3
Fronting	Substitution of a front sound (t, d, n) for a back sound (k, g, ng), e.g., "tey" for "key"	Age 3 ½
Stopping	Substitution of "s, z, f, v, sh" or "th" for "d, t, b, p, k," or "g" e.g., "tope" for "soap"	Age 3-5
Weak Syllable Deletion	Omission of the unstressed syllable in a word, e.g., "efant" for "elephant"	Age 4
Deaffrication	Substitution of another sound for "ch" or "j," e.g., "tip" for "chip"	Age 4
Cluster reduction	Omission of one sound in a cluster, e.g., "poon" for "spoon"	Age 4
Gliding	Substitution of "w" or "y" for "r" or "l," e.g., "wun" for "run"	Age 5
Vocalization	Substitution of a vowel for "r" or "l," e.g., "ca-uh" for "car"	Age 5

(Sources: Clinical Assessment of Articulation and Phonology, 2002; Caroline Bowen, 1998; Talking Child, LLC, 2003)