

SPEECH SOUND DEVELOPMENT

Children develop speech sounds at different rates. When children first learn to speak, they may pronounce sounds incorrectly as they are learning; for instance, a 3 year old may say "wabbit" instead of "rabbit." Some speech sound errors are considered age appropriate.

Others are considered a speech sound disorder. This chart represents the age at which 90% of children have mastered particular sounds, some children may demonstrate mastery at a younger age. If you feel that your child is more difficult to understand than his/her peers, an assessment by a speech/language pathologist may be warranted.

3
years
p, b, m, d, n, h, t, k, g, w, ng, f, y

4
years
l, j, ch, s, v, sh, z

5
years
r, zh, th (voiced)

6
years
th (voiceless)

*based on 15 English speech acquisitions studies compiled by McLeod and Crowe, 2018

