

What age do children use different speech Sounds?

Information taken from Elklan “Let’s talk With Under 5’s” (Elklan, 2007) and PACS developmental assessment (Pamela Grunwell, 1985)

Age	Sounds your child is likely to be using	Other things which are still difficult	When to refer to speech therapy
1 ½ - 2 years	m n p b t d	- Your child is still likely to miss the sounds off the ends of words - By 2 ½ your child’s speech should be understood by close family	By 2 if your child is not saying any sounds
2 ½ - 3 years	m n p b t d w y h	- Your child will still find it difficult to say long sounds like “f” and “s”, so may say “bish” for fish or “dun” for sun. - Your child will still find it difficult to say “k” and “g”, so may say e.g. “tar” for car. - By 3 years your child’s speech should be understood by familiar adults outside of home, but it will not be perfect.	By 3 if your child is not saying m, n, p, b, t, d
3 – 4 years	m n p b t d k g f s v maybe sh w y h	- “k” and “g” will be developing. - Words with two consonant sounds together will be difficult, so your child may say e.g. “bue” for blue and “bider” for spider. - By 4 years your child’s speech should be understood most of the time.	By 4 if your child is not saying f, s, k, g
4 – 5 years	m n p b t d k g f s v sh z ch j w y h l maybe some consonant blends, e.g. sp st pl	- Most sounds are more clear, though some consonant blends will still be difficult. Your child will be learning to say “ch” and “j”.	By 5 if your child is not saying sh, ch, j, v, l

<p>5 years +</p>	<p>m n p b t d k g f s v sh z ch j w y h l r th Consonant blends</p>	<p>- Sounds like “l” “r” and “th” may still be difficult for your child. Often children do not develop these sounds until they are at least 6 years old. Some adults still find these sounds difficult. It is unlikely that a speech therapist would work on these sounds.</p>	<p>- From 5 years if your child has unusual articulation e.g. a lisp. - By 6 if your child is not saying “th”, or s blends, e.g. sp, st - By 7 if your child is not saying “r”</p>
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