



What should we expect as children age when it comes to their speech sounds and sound production? While every child is different, there are some established norms that help guide us in supporting a child's speech sound development.

## STAGES OF EARLY VOCAL PRODUCTION

### First Few Months

During this time you may hear a child cooing (vowel-like sounds)

### 4-6 Months

During these months reduplicated babbling emerges. This type of babbling involves repetitive production of the same consonant vowel structures (e.g., "ba-ba," "da-da")

### 9-12 Months

During these months you will begin to hear consonants and vowels change with variegated babbling (e.g., "ba-do,") and jargon (i.e., strings of varied sounds with intonation that resemble real speech)

### Around 12 Months

First words typically emerge

### By 2 years

Children begin to use word combinations and simple phrases

## WHAT ARE SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS?

### ARTICULATION DISORDER

When a child has trouble producing specific speech sounds by the expected age range. This includes dropping the sound, replacing it with another or distorting the sound.

### PHONOLOGICAL DISORDER

When a child uses phonological processes (rule-based speech patterns used as a way to simplify complex speech sounds) past the age they are expected to.

### CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH

A neurological speech sound disorder impacting the brain's ability to plan movement and coordination of muscles used in speech.

### DYSARTHRIA

A motor speech disorder in which speech is often slurred, slowed or hard to understand due to muscle weakness.

## SPEECH SOUND DEVELOPMENT BY AGE

There is a typical progression of development of speech sounds in the English language. All sounds have a range of mastery and may develop before the given age. The chart below shows the sounds a child is expected to say by the end of the year listed.

2 years

p b d m n h w

3 years

k g f t -ng y ("yes")

4 years

s z v ch l j

5 years

zh r voiced th ("that")

6 years

voiceless th ("think")

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES

- [Video: What Are Speech Sound Disorders](#)
- [PDF Speech Sound Development Chart](#)
- [ASHA: Selected Phonological Patterns](#)
- [Pathways: Information on Babbling](#)