

Speech Sound Development

The following chart shows the ages by which the different speech sounds have typically developed. If a child is not able to say a speech sound six months after the given age, refer him/her to a Speech Pathologist. For example, refer a 4 year old child who cannot say 'k'.

3 years p b t d m n ng y w h	4 years s sh ch l	5 years r
3½ years k g f	4½ years z j Clusters (2 consonants together, eg. 'st' in star)	6 years v
		8 years th (in <u>thumb</u>) th (in <u>this</u>)

There are many speech sound errors that occur in children's speech, some examples are:

- **Final Consonant Deletion** - This is where the child leaves the end sound off the word (eg. 'see' for 'seed', 'moo' for 'moon'). This process is appropriate until the age of 3 years.
- **Weak Syllable Deletion** - This is where the child deletes the weak part of the word (eg. 'mato' for 'tomato', 'efant' for 'elephant'). This process is appropriate until the age of 4 years.
- **Fronting** - This is where the back sounds ('k' and 'g') are replaced with front sounds ('t' and 'd'). For example, 'tar' for 'car', 'do' for 'go'. This error is appropriate until the age of 3½ years.
- **Voicing** - This is where the child replaces a soft (voiceless) sound (eg. p, t, k) with a loud (voiced) sound (eg. b, d, g). For example, 'dea' for 'tea'. This error is appropriate until the age of 3 years.
- **Cluster Reduction** - A cluster is a group of two or three consonants together (eg. st, sp, tr). This process is where the child omits one of the consonants or replaces the consonants with another sound. For example, 'boon' for 'spoon', 'tuck' for 'truck'. This error is appropriate until the age of 4½ years.