

Speech Sound Production

What age do we expect each sound?

Children will develop sounds at different rates and times. The table below provides a guide of the typical processes a child may use as they acquire new speech sounds.

Phonological Process	Example	Age that we expect the process to be resolved by:
Voicing	party = b arty	3;0
Final consonant deletion	cat = ca_	3;3
Stopping	fish = t ish	3;6
Fronting	keep = t eep	3;6
Weak syllable deletion	elephant = efant potato = tato	4;0
Cluster reduction	Played = payed	4;0
Deaffrication	Bridge = brid	5;0
Gliding	Red = w ed	6;0

General speech strategies

- Work on developing the child's attention and listening skills/phonological awareness skills
- Respond to what the child says not how they have said
- Model the correct way to say the word, but don't expect the child to repeat it back.
- Ensure the child has enough time to be heard
- Encourage other forms of communicating, e.g. "can you show me"? Using point, gesture, sign, body language, drawing
- Don't pretend you understand the child but try to find other ways for the child to explain.
- Work with parents. Talk to them or use a home/school link book to find out children's activities and experiences from home.
- Share repetitive rhymes, songs and stories to support the children's learning about sounds

Long sounds	Short sounds	Front sounds	Back sounds	Loud sounds	Quiet sounds
ffff, ssss, zzzz, vvvv	p, b, d, t	p, b, m, t, d	k, g	d, z, b, g, v	t, s, p, k, f

For more information, videos and activity examples please refer to the Salford Speak Up website: <https://www.speakupsalford.nhs.uk/>