

Babbled sounds develop into attempts at real words.
Vowel sounds develop first and the consonants follow later. Some sounds are more difficult than others ('f' is harder than 'p')

Generally children can say these sounds:

Sound	50% of children	90% of children
Common vowels	1½ to 2 years	3 years
p b m n t d w	1½ to 2 years	3 years
k g f h y	1½ to 3 years	4 years
'ng' s	1½ to 3 years	5 years
l	3 to 3½ years	6 years
sh ch j z v	3½ to 4½ years	6 years
r	3 to 5 years	7 years
Clusters (such as cl fl br tr sm sk etc)	3½ to 4½ years	7 years
th	4½ years	7 years plus

There is a lot of individual variation and not all children develop speech in the same way. It is also common for children to mispronounce words.

Some things you might hear include:

Missing off the ends of words "dog" is said as "do"	Usually heard up until 3 years
Sounds made at the back of the mouth (k or g) are made at the front (t or d) "cat" is said as "tat", "go" as "do"	Usually heard up until 4 years
A long sound (s) is said as a short sound (t), eg "sun" is said as "tun"	Can be heard up until 4 years
When two sounds are said together (sp), one is missed out, eg "star" is said as "tar"	Often heard up until 4½ years

Based on combined references:

Dodd B et al 2002 Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation & Phonology Manual

Grunwell P 1981 The Development of Phonology

Bowen C 2011 Elimination of Phonological Processes in Typical Development

For more information, contact Speech and Language Therapy:

Tel 01535 295652 or

<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child with Speech Sounds



As children learn to talk, the sounds they use often sound incorrect. This is because it takes them a while to develop all the sounds of their language and to use them correctly.

This may make your child difficult to understand and cause frustration.

There are lots of things you can do to help.

☺ Think about using 'Special Time'. This involves just 5 minutes a day playing with your child or sharing a book. Turn off background noise so that your child can hear you easily. Talk about what your child is doing or things that he is looking at.

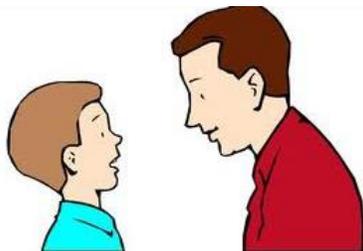


☺ Don't tell your child that they have made a mistake... instead... Always accept your child's attempt at a word, however unclear it may seem.

☺ Repeat the word clearly back to your child
(Child: "Mummy, a tat"
You: "Yes, it's a cat")
so your child hears a good model.

☹ Don't 'correct' your child's speech by trying to make your child say a sound or word correctly. This may lead to frustration or a negative attitude towards speaking.

☺ Always be positive about your child's speech.



☺ Encourage your child to talk and play with others. This will help their communication skills and confidence to develop.



If you are having trouble understanding your child you could:

- ✓ Ask them to say it again
- ✓ Repeat back part of the message - "Going where?" or "Mum said what?"
- ✓ Ask them to tell you some more about it
- ✓ Can they show you or take you there?

☺ Listen to what your child says and not how they say it.
☹ Never let a child talk with a dummy in their mouth. Your child is trying as hard as they can, they are **not** being lazy, so praise their efforts and carry on being a good model.

