



Speech Sounds

What to expect and when



Speech sounds we use develop in a certain pattern and we expect children to develop sounds by a certain age. Children develop sounds differently and some will use what we call normal sound swaps until the age we expect that sound to develop.

The following outlines the ages at which children should be using certain sounds

Ages 2 to 3 years – p, b, m, n, h, t, d, k, g, f, y, ng

Age 4 years - v, s, z, l, sh, ch, j

Age 5 years - r, cluster sounds; sp, sm, sn, sk, st, sl, sw, br, bl, cl, cr, gl, gr, fl, fr, tr

Common speech patterns

Final consonant deletion:

When sounds are deleted at the end of a word e.g. “hat becomes ha”

Stopping:

Short sounds such as (p, b, d) used for long sounds such as (f, s, z) e.g. “sun becomes dun or fun becomes bun”

Fronting:

A sound made at the front of the mouth such as (t, d) are used for sounds made at the back of the mouth (k, g) e.g. “car to tar or gate to date”

Voicing:

When loud sounds such as (b, d, g) are used for quiet sounds such as (p, t, k)

Children may be using the following speech patterns up to the age of 5 years old

Cluster reduction:

When two consonants at the start of a word is reduced to one e.g. “spoon to poon or soon, school to cool or sool, star to tar or sar” etc.

Gliding:

Where /r/ is swapped with /w/ e.g. “red becomes wed or ride becomes wide”