



Speech Sound Development Chart (English)

All children make errors when they are learning to talk. Here are some ways children make words easier to pronounce. If you have any questions about this information, please speak with a speech-language pathologist.




Error pattern	Example	Resolved by age:
Leaving sounds off at the end of words	hat is pronounced as “ha”; bus is pronounced as “bu”	3;3
Pronouncing /k/ as /t/ and /g/ as /d/	cup is pronounced as “tup”; game is pronounced as “dame”	3;6
Stopping of air flow sounds (e.g., /f/v/s/z/)	four is pronounced as “pour”; Bus is pronounced as “but”; shop is pronounced as “dop”	3;0-4;0
Simplifying sound clusters	step is pronounced as “tep”; play is pronounced as “pay”	4;0
Shortening long words	elephant is pronounced as “efant”; banana is pronounced as “nana”	4;0
Saying /s,z/with tongue between teeth	sun pronounced as “thun”, buzz pronounced as “buth”	6;0 +



The following signs might indicate that your child needs help from a speech-language pathologist:

At 6 months...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not babble. For example, does not make sounds like “ba-ba-ba” or “ma-ma-ma”
At 2 years...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only says a few different sounds Leaves off sounds at the beginning of words, for example, says “ee” for “me”
At 3 years...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is often hard for adults to understand Often gets frustrated when you do not understand what they say
At 4 years...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not understood most of the time Speech errors are causing frustration and impacting ability to make friends

This chart summarizes the age at which 90% of children are expected to have learned sounds. If you are worried about your child's pronunciation, please contact a speech-language pathologist.

Age	Sound	Example Word
By 3 years of age 	p	puppy
	b	baby
	d	done, bed
	m	milk, name
	n	no, on
	h	hi
	w	water, tower
By 4 years of age 	t	toe, hat
	k	cake
	g	go, hug
	f	fun, off
	y	yoyo
	s	sock, bus
By 5 years of age 	v	van, wave
	z	zebra, busy
	sh	shoe, wash
	l	lion, balloon
	ch	chair, ouch
	j	jump, bridge
After 5 years of age	th (voiced)	that, bother
	r	run, carrot
	th (voiceless)	think, bath

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Other fact sheets on parenting your child
are available at your local Community Health Office/Centre
or online at vch.eduhealth.ca

For more information, contact a Speech-Language Pathologist
or Public Health Nurse at Vancouver Coastal Health
vch.ca

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