



Development of Speech Sounds

There is a developmental pattern for the development of speech sounds that *most* children follow.

Sounds that typically develop first include:

p, b, n, m, w, h

Sounds that develop next include:

f, k, g, t, d, y

Later developing sounds include:

l, r, s, z, v, th, sh, ch, j, consonant blends (e.g. spoon, blue, truck)

When Should I Be Concerned?

How clear should a child's speech be?

In addition to when your child uses sounds, we also have to consider how easy they are to understand. Someone who does not know your child should be able to understand:

- about 50% of what a 2 year old says
- about 75% of what a 3 year old says
- about 90% of what a 4 year old says
- almost 100% of what a 5 year old says

Watch for errors that may be of more concern such as:

- Dropping sounds (e.g. “un” for “sun”, especially after age three)
- Using one or two sounds everywhere
- Not using a sound correctly by the age at which it is expected (chart on back)

Is your child frustrated that you do not understand them?