

Speech involves how we say sounds and words.

As your child grows and develops their use of speech sounds, it is normal for them to say the wrong sound. You may notice that they leave out a sound, distort a sound or substitute one sound for another. For example, your child may say “poon” for “spoon”, “thun” for “sun” or “wed” for “red”.

There are some sounds in English that are more difficult and we would not expect young children to have mastered them. For example, a typical 4 year-old kindergarten student may not yet know how to say the R and TH sounds. Some children can and that’s great but many 4 year-olds are still working to develop and use these sounds.

The graphic below shows the ages for which most English-speaking children develop sounds.



You play an important role in the development of a child’s speech skills as most children learn to use sounds correctly by listening to other people saying them. Help your child pronounce sounds more clearly by providing the correct model. Emphasize new sounds by saying them louder or stretching them out. Other ideas include; reciting nursery rhymes and singing songs to develop awareness of speech sounds, drawing pictures of words that start with a new sound and choosing books that use words with the new sound.

In this section of our website, you will find Home Practice Programs to help with development of specific speech sounds. For each sound, there are instructions on *what* to expect, *how* and *when* to practice, and specific steps for getting started.

Please refer to the *Speech Games Calendar* in each program for activities to do with your child to help make practicing speech sounds fun!