


AVERAGE SPEECH SOUND DEVELOPMENT

Many students make errors when they pronounce words. The sounds that children learn first are usually the ones that are easier to produce. Most students learn how to say all speech sounds appropriately by the time they reach the age of seven or eight. The following information is a guide to help you decide if your student should be referred to a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Age	Approx. Grade Level	75% to 90% of children correctly produce the following sounds:	
By age 4	Preschool	/m/ as in mouse, summer, lamb /n/ as in no, bunny, sun /b/ as in bat, bye-bye, spider-web /p/ as in pig, puppy, soap /w/ as in walk, away /h/ as in hat /d/ as in door, pudding, bed /t/ as in toys, guitar, boat /k/ as in key, chicken, bike /g/ as in game, tiger, bug /f/ as in five, elephant, leaf	
			What to watch for
4 + years	Kindergarten	'y' as in yes, backyard 'ng' as in finger, sing 's' blends as in smoke slide, stop, snake, spoon, swing	Student leaves out parts of longer words or has difficulty saying them (i.e. nana for banana) Student leaves out one sound when there are two consonants together at the start of a word (i.e. poon for spoon)
5 + years	Kindergarten to Grade 1	/l/ as in ladybug, balloon, whale /s/ as in sock, pencil, bus /z/ as in zoo, music, nose 'sh' as in shoe, fishing, wash 'ch' as in chair, ketchup, lunch 'j' as in jelly, fire engine, huge	Student is reluctant to repeat what they have said Family members/strangers/peers have difficulty understanding the student's speech Many speech sound errors
6+ years	Grade 1 - 2	'l' blends as in clown, blue, lower, glue, play, sleep /v/ as in van, seven, glove /r/ as in rabbit, carrot, car 'r' blends as in grapes, crocodile, dragon, frog, bread, princess, tree 'zh' as in treasure, garage	Student is embarrassed or frustrated about his speech Teacher indicates concern with the student's speech during reading Student's speech sounds are not clear
7 - 8 years	Grade 2 - 3	'th' (voiceless) as in thumb, bathtub, mouth 'th' (voiced) as in this, mother, breathe	Student does not use all sounds accurately in conversation