

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH SOUNDS

Approximate ages at which children can normally produce speech sounds

	50% of children	90% of children
all common vowel sounds	1.5 to 2 years	3 years
/p/ /b/ /t/ /d/ /m/ /n/ /w/	1.5 to 2 years	3 years
/k/ /g/ /f/ /h/ /y/ as in <i>yet</i>	2.5 to 3 years	4 years
/s/ /ng/ as in <i>sing</i>	2.5 to 3 years	5 years
//	3 to 3.5 years	6 years
/sh/ as in <i>shoe</i> /ch/ as in <i>chin</i> /j/ as in <i>joke</i> /z/ and /v/	3.5 to 4.5 years	6 years
/r/ /th/ as in <i>thin</i> /th/ as in <i>then</i> /s/ as in <i>measure</i>	4.5 to 5 years	7 years

Consonant blends:

Consonants are first used singly at the beginning of words, and later at the end or in the middle of words, e.g. *no, gone, dinner*. When single consonants are well established, around three and a half years, children begin to use them in groups (blends), first at the beginning of words, then at the end or in the middle of words (some blends occur only at the beginnings of words, others only at the end). It may take a further three or four years for all blends to be used accurately.

By 4 to 4.5 years:

bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, qu (kw), br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr	at the beginning of words
ks, ls, ms, ps, ts, vs	at the end of words

By 5 years:

sp, sm, sn, sk, sl, sw, st	at the beginning or end of words
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After 5 years:

str, skr, spl, spr, thr, shr	at the beginning or middle of words.
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