

Help your child today

You and your child can meet with a speech-language pathologist.

See an audiologist for concerns with hearing.

Call your local Health Unit.

Help your child learn



Talk

Speak clearly and repeat important words. For example, “Look at the **ball**. It’s a **big ball**. **B**ounce the **ball**.” Your child may need to hear a sound many times before she can say it.



Read

Make certain sounds stand out as you read with your child. For example, make the sound ‘**f**’ stand out in *The Foot Book* by Dr. Seuss or ‘**g**’ stand out in *Go Dog Go* by P.D. Eastman.



Sing

Sing songs that include the sound you want your child to learn. For example, *Itsy Bitsy Spider* for the sound ‘**s**’ and *Little Rabbit Foo Foo* for the sound ‘**f**’.



Play

Make fun and interesting sounds as you play with your child. For example, vehicle sounds (*choo-choo*), animal sounds (*moo, sss*), and action sounds (*whee*). Say the sounds over and over again.



Interior Health

Listen To Me Talk

Speech Sound Development



Speech & Language Development

Speech sound development

Children learn to talk by listening to voices and words.

Most children learn to say all of the speech sounds by the time they are eight years old.

It's normal for children to make errors as they learn.

This table shows the typical age range when children learn each sound:

1 – 3 years

m: mom, drum
b: baby, tub
n: no, man
w: water
d: daddy, bed
p: puppy, up
h: house

2 – 4 years

t: toe, hot
k: cookie, duck
g: gum, dog
ing: wing
f: four, off
y: you

3 – 5 years

s: soap, bus
z: zoo, cheese
s blends: spoon, stop
l: lion, balloon
l blends: blue, glass
sh: shoe, push
ch: chair, watch
j: jump, page

5 – 7 years

th: thumb, tooth
r: red, car
r blends: green
zh: measure
v: van, love

When your child is **18 months old**, you should understand her words 25% of the time.

When your child is **2 years old**, you should understand her words 50 – 75% of the time.

When your child is **3 years old**, you should understand her words more than 75% of the time.

When your child is **4 or 5 years old**, her sounds may not be perfect, but you should understand her words most of the time.