

Age Range When Consonant Sounds are Usually Mastered

A sound is 'mastered' when a child says it in its mature form most of the time in connected speech (sentences, stories, conversation).

2:0-2:5	2:6-2:11	3:0-3:5	3:6-3:11	4:0-4:5	4:6-4:11	5:0-5:11	6:0-6:11	7:0-7:11
<u>p</u> ot	•2:8							(• = average)
<u>b</u> all	•2:6							
<u>m</u> ine	•2:8							
<u>d</u> own		•3:0						
<u>n</u> o	•2:8							
<u>h</u> ead	•2:9							
<u>t</u> wo		•3:2						
<u>c</u> at		•3:1						
<u>g</u> o		•3:1						
<u>w</u> et	•2:9							
<u>s</u> ing		•3:3						
	<u>y</u> es		•3:8					
<u>f</u> oot		•3:1						
		<u>l</u> ove		•4:1				
	<u>l</u> et, <u>b</u> all		•3:8					
		<u>j</u> ob		•4:3				
		<u>b</u> each		4:5				
<u>s</u> oup			•4:3					
		<u>sh</u> oe		•4:7				
	<u>z</u> ed		•4:6					
	<u>r</u> ed, <u>h</u> air				•5:6			
					<u>t</u> reasure	•5:3		
						<u>th</u> umb	•6:4	
					<u>th</u> e, <u>sm</u> ooth	•5:8		

Overall Intelligibility to Unfamiliar Listeners

The percentage of a child's speech that is understandable to others. This varies based on whether the topic is known and whether there is background noise. The child's parents will understand more than unfamiliar listeners.

50% 24 mths		75% 3 yrs		75% 4 yrs		90-100% 5 yrs	100% >5 yrs	
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Age by Which Common Errors are Eliminated

Below is a *small* selection of common errors that young children make while their speech sound systems are maturing. Not all children will exhibit these errors.

Final consonant deletion ('bed' → "be")	⊖ 3:6						
Velar fronting ('cup' → "tup")	⊖ 3:6						
Interdental /s, z/ (tongue sticks out)		⊖ 4:0					
Stopping ('soup' → "toop")	♀ 3:6		♂ 4:6				
Cluster reduction ('blue' → "boo")			♂ 4:6		♀ 5:0		
/θ/ to /f/ substitution ('thumb' → "fum")					⊖ 5:0		
Gliding ('red' → "wed"; 'lion' → "wion")							⊖ 7:0
Vowelization ('car' → "cah"; 'ball' → "baw")							8:0 ⊖

Not Typical at any Age

Significant frustration when trying to speak.

Sibilant sounds (/s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/) are distorted, slushy, and/or wet.

Backing - /t, d/ are replaced with /k, g, h/.

Unusual rhythm and rate, speech that sounds 'choppy'.

Speech overall sounds slurred or 'nasal'.

Persistent hoarse voice.