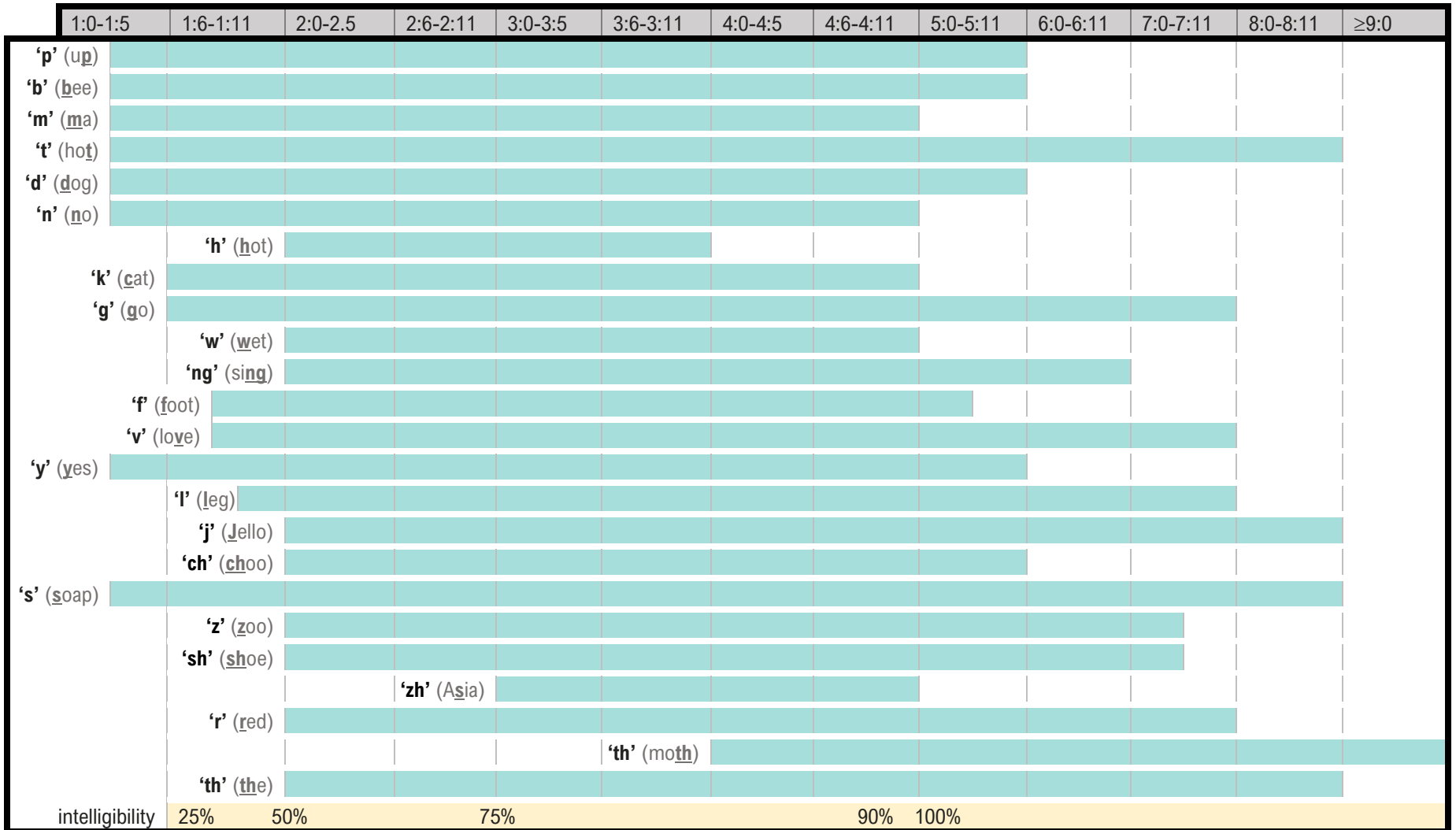




Shoreline Speech Therapy

Development of Speech Sounds: A Guide for Parents

This graph presents general information for parents and professionals (e.g., teachers, physicians). Judgment about whether a specific child is meeting their milestones for speech sound acquisition requires a comprehensive evaluation by a speech-language pathologist. During assessment, S-LPs consider more specific information such as gender, age, the position of the sound in words, the type of error, overall intelligibility, and dialect. The bars represent a process of speech sounds *emerging* and eventually becoming *mastered* in different word positions^{1,2} (i.e., **g**o, **egg**, **Lego**). If a sound is *emerging*, it's present but not always used correctly. If a sound is *mastered*, the sound is consistently used correctly. There are also guidelines for how *intelligible* children should be overall³ – how understandable the child is to unfamiliar people.



¹ Goldman, R., & Fristoe, M. (2015). *Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation* (3rd ed.). Circle Pines, MN: American Guidance Service, Inc.

² McLeod, S., & Crowe, K. (2018). Children's consonant acquisition in 27 languages: A cross-linguistic review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 2018, 1-26.

³ Shipley, K. C., & McAfee, J. G. (1998). *Assessment in speech-language pathology* (2nd ed.). Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cengage Learning.