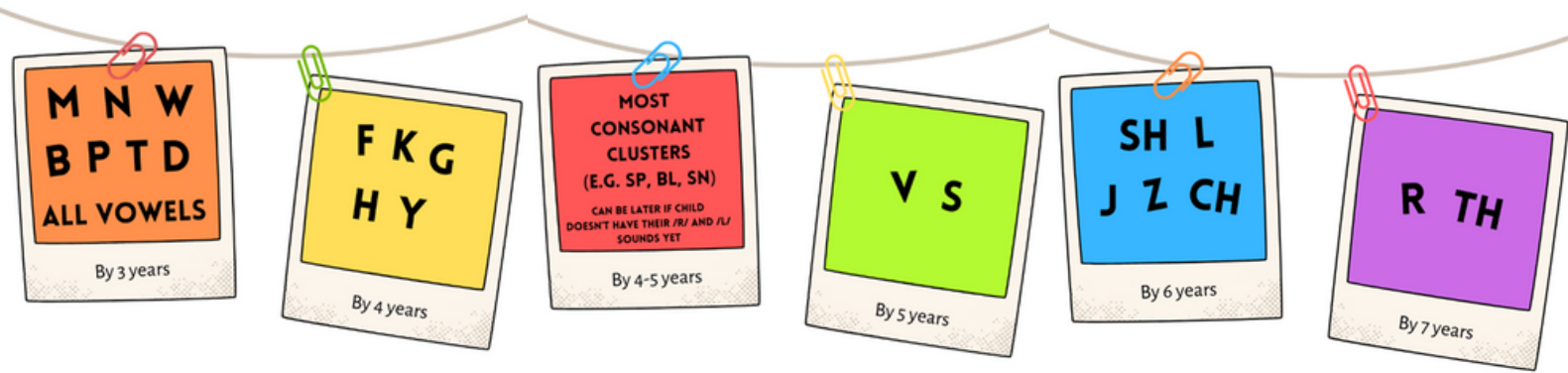




slt for Kids Newsletter May 2022



In our May newsletter, we are looking at speech sounds. Speech sounds are the sounds we put together to make words! It can take a long time to develop all the different speech sounds we need, and different sounds develop at different ages.



Common Mistakes

As children begin to speak, it is normal for them to say words differently. This is because some sounds are harder to say than others, so children might use an easier sound instead.

Here are some common speech sound mistakes children make:

Final constant deletion

Removing the sounds from the end of words

"Face" = Fa"

Typically stops around 2 years

Voicing error

Replacing a quiet sound like /p/ /t/ /k/ with a noisy sound, like /b/ /d/ /g/

"Toe = Doe"

Typically stops around 2.11 years

Stopping

Changing long sounds like /f/, /s/, /sh/ to short sounds like /t/, /d/, /b/

"House" = "Hout"
"Fan" = "Pan"

Typically stops around 2.11 years

Weak syllable deletion

Simplifying tricky longer words, into shorter words

"Banana" = "Nana"
"Elephant" = "Ephant"

Typically stops around 3.11 years

Fronting

Changing sounds made at the back of the mouth (k,g) to sounds made at the front (t,d)

"Key" = Tea"

Typically stops around 3.11 years

Deaffrication

Simplifying sounds like /ch/, /sh/ and /j/

"Chair" = Tair
"Chop" = "Sop"

Typically stops around 4 years

Cluster reduction

Simplifying tricky sound clusters

"Smash" = "Mash"
"Train" = "Tain"

Typically stops around 4.11 years

Gliding

Changing the tricky /r/ and /l/ sounds to easy ones like /w/ and /y/

"Ring" = "Wing"
"Lion" = "Wion"

Typically stops around 4.11 years

How to support speech

There are some helpful strategies that you can use, to help your child say their sounds correctly, and to help work out what they are saying. Our favourites include:

Listening ears



Pretend your 'listening ears' aren't working and ask the child to say it again if you don't understand them

Correct



Correct your child's mistake, or guess what they're trying to say, and repeat back to them, so they can hear how the word is meant to sound

Reduce noise



Reduce background noise when listening to your child talk

Alternative forms of communication



Use other ways to communicate! You could point, use facial expression, draw a picture, write, show what you mean, use an iPad

Speak slowly



When you talk slower, it's easier for children to hear the sounds you are using in your words!

Be patient



Be patient with the child and don't rush them. Let them finish their sentence by themselves

Not everyone communicates using speech!

Picture symbols

Some of our friends might find it really hard to say sounds, so they might use things like...

Makaton

Electronic device

To help them talk!

Therapy

If a child continues to have difficulty saying their sounds, Speech & Language Therapists can help children learn how to say their sounds correctly, or find other ways to communicate!



Top tip!

book share time

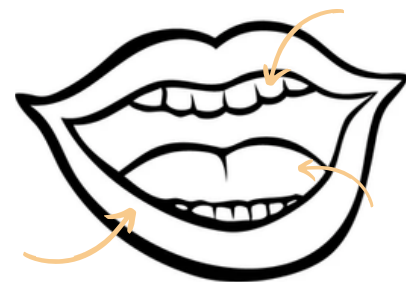
Discover some of the best children's books for supporting speech and language development

Find Books

Reading is a great way to practice sounds with your child.

On Book Share Time, you can search for a particular speech sound, and it will recommend lots of books that contain that particular sound. So you can have lots of fun practising together!

How do we make sounds?



We use our mouths to make all of our speech sounds! Do you know what the different parts of the mouth are called?

Lips

Tongue

Teeth