

Speech Sounds

What to expect and when

By Age 3

Your child should be using the p, b, m, n, w and h sounds in words. Most of your child's speech will be understood by people they know. They will be starting to use sounds at the end of words (e.g. 'bed').



- Model correct speech – repeat words clearly without asking your child to repeat them.
- Encourage sound play with rhymes and songs to explore different sounds.
- Be patient as they learn new sounds.
- Read aloud together and point out words with tricky sounds for your child to hear.

Age 4–5

Your child will start to use the v, l, s, z, sh, ch and j sounds. They will start to use some 's' blends such as 'sp' and 'st'. Most children's speech is easily understood by others.

Age 3–4

Your child will start to use the t, d, k, g, f and y. There will still be some tricky sounds including sound blends (such as sp and cr) and sounds such as 'r' and 'th'.

Age 5+

Your child will start to use sound blends such as 'pl' and 'tr'. They may still find the 'r' and 'th' sounds tricky up to age 6 or 7 years old.

