



Speech Pathology and Educational Services

SPEECH SOUND DEVELOPMENT

By the age of **4 years**, a child should be using the following speech sounds correctly:

m n p b t d w h k g y s z f l

It is age appropriate for the child to:

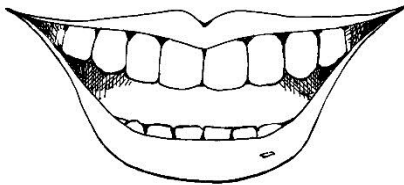
- Glide the 'r' sound e.g. 'ring' said as 'wing'.
- Simplify their 'th' sound e.g. 'thing' said as 'fing'.

By the age of **7 years**, a child should be producing all sounds (including 'th') correctly.

By the age of **5 years**, a child should be additionally using the following speech sounds correctly:

sh ch j r v

It is still age appropriate for the child to have difficulty with their 'th' sound.



A **school aged child** should never:

- Leave out a sound in a sound blend (e.g. say 'boon' instead of 'spoon').
- Have a lateral or slushy sounding 's'.
- Have an interdental 's' sound (with their tongue between their teeth).
- Glide their 'l' sound e.g. say 'yight' instead of 'light'.
- Bring sounds further forward in their mouth e.g. say 'tat' for 'cat'.
- Delete syllables in multisyllabic words e.g. say 'elfent' for 'elephant'.