When should I seek support if I am worried about my child's speech?

- If your child is not able to use single sounds more than 6 months after the expected age.

You may also read Part 1: Single Speech Sounds.
The first leaflet looks at the order children develop their ability to use single sounds. We explain what ages different sounds develop at.

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If your child is currently working with a speech and language therapist, your therapist may talk to you about how your child's speech development compares to the age-related expectations we have outlined here.

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Speech sound development norms have been taken from Dodd et al's 2003 study with British English-speaking children.

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If your child is not yet using sounds expected for their age, you can seek support. The speech and language therapy team can be contacted at the details below. Alternatively, speak to your health visitor or school SENCo about your concerns. For younger children of preschool-age, parents can self-refer by sending us a welcome questionnaire (the form can be found on our website).

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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Children and Young People's Services

Children's Speech & Language Therapy
Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
Tel: 0300 029 5050
Website: www.slc.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk
Instagram: @slt_cambridgeshire

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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Children and Young People's Services

NHS
East of England Community Health and Care
NHS Trust

Parent Guide to Speech Sound Development:

Part 1 – Single Speech Sounds

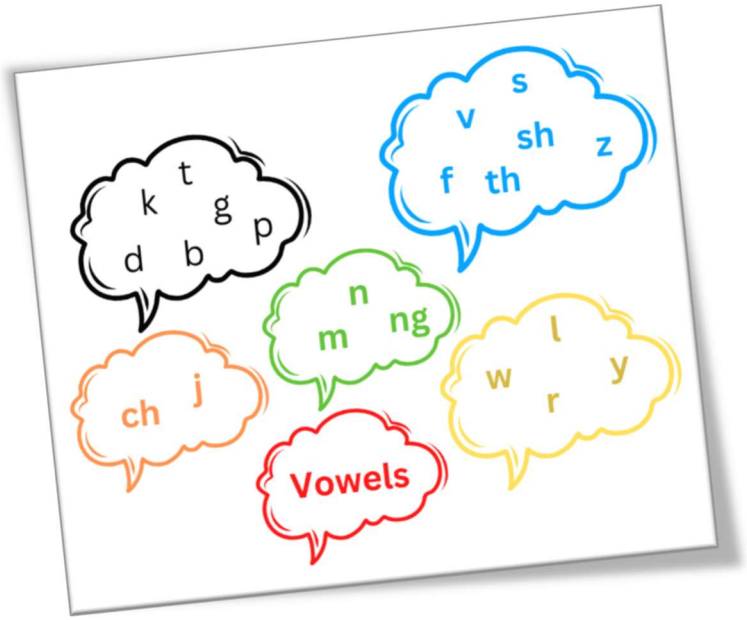


This leaflet will help you understand how and when your child develops speech sounds as they are learning to talk.

- What sounds do we use in English?
- What order do children usually develop speech sounds?
- How old are they when they when they develop speech sounds?
- What skills do they need to have as they develop speech sounds?

What sounds do we use in English?

We use a wide range of speech sounds in English.



What skills do children need to have to help them develop speech sounds?

- It is important for children to be able to hear clearly as they are developing their speech and language. If they can't hear speech sounds clearly, it will be hard for them to learn to use those sounds correctly.

- As they are learning to use sounds, children will also be developing their awareness of speech sounds. They will be learning what sounds go in what words. They will be starting to know if words sound wrong when other people say them. They will be starting to hear how sounds are different.

The order children learn to use speech sounds

Children will learn to use speech sounds on their own before they can use them correctly in words.

The first speech sounds your child will learn to use are **vowel sounds**.

My child is 3½ years old. What sounds should they be able to use?
At 3½ years old, children should be able to use the following sounds:
p b t d k g
m n ng
f v s z h
w l y (+ vowels)

My child is 4 years old.
At 4 years old, children should be able to use the sounds above. They will also be using these sounds: **ch**

My child is 4½ years old.
At 4½ years old, children should be using the sounds above. They will also be using these new sounds: **zh** (as in measure), **j**

My child is 5½ years old.
At 5½ years old, children should be using the sounds above. They should also be using: **sh**

My child is 6½ years old.
At 6½ years old, children should be using the sounds above. They should also be using these new sounds: **r**

My child is 7 years old.
At 7 years old, children should be using the sounds above. They should also be using: **th**