

Ages for Development of Speech Sounds

These are ages at which approximately 90% of children correctly produce each sound.

Most of these sounds are written in the phonetic alphabet, and the sounds in parentheses are the way we would usually spell them in English.

A dash before the sound (-f) means the sound is at the end of a word.

A dash after the sound (l-) means the sound is at the beginning of a word or syllable.

Age of Acquisition		Phonemes Written Sound ()	Example Words
Girls	Boys		
3-0	3-0	m, h, w, p, b	mop, house, wet, pot, bat
3-6	3-0	n	not
3-0	3-6	d	dog
3-6	3-6	k, f-	key, cat, fun
4-0	3-6	t	top
3-6	4-0	g	go
4-0	5-0	j (y-)	yes
4-0	5-6	tw, kw (qu)	twin, queen
4-6	7-0	ð (th)	these
5-6	5-6	-f, v	off, laugh, very
5-0	6-0	l-	love
5-6	6-0	pl, bl, kl (cl), gl, fl	play, blue, clean, glass, floor
6-0	8-0	θ (th)	think
6-0	7-0	ʃ (sh), tʃ (ch), dʒ (j), -l	ship, chin, jump, hall
7-0	7-0	ŋ (ng), s, z, sp, st, sk, sm, sn, sw, sl, skw (squ), spl	sing, see, zebra, spin, stop, skin, small, snail, sweet, sleep, square, splash
8-0	8-0	-ə (er, or, ur), r-, pr, br, tr, dr, kr (cr), gr, fr	father, work, hurt, red, prize, brown, tree, drink, cream, green, from
9-0	9-0	θr (thr), spr, str, skr (scr)	three, sprain, string, scream

Chart adapted from Smit, A.B., Hand, L., Freilinger, J.J., Bernthal, J.E. & Bird, A. (1990). The Iowa articulation norms project and its Nebraska replication. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 55, 779 – 798.