

## How speech sounds usually develop – revised 2024

| Age                  | sounds that develop                                                         | what might happen at this age?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>up to 2 years</b> | p, b, m, n, w, t, d                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>words may consist of repeated sounds ➤ flower becomes fafa</li> <li>sounds often left off the end of words ➤ bike becomes bye</li> </ul>                                                                                                          |
| <b>2 - 3 years</b>   | k, g, h, s, f                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sounds often left off the end of words ➤ bike becomes bye</li> <li>k / c becomes t ➤ car becomes tar</li> <li>g becomes d ➤ girl becomes dirl</li> <li>s becomes t ➤ sock becomes tock</li> <li>f becomes p/b ➤ fish becomes pish/bish</li> </ul> |
| <b>3 – 4 years</b>   | ng, y, v, z, l                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v becomes b ➤ van becomes ban</li> <li>z becomes d ➤ zip becomes dip</li> <li>y becomes l / w ➤ yoyo becomes lolo or wowo</li> <li>l becomes w ➤ leaf becomes weaf</li> </ul>                                                                     |
| <b>4 – 5 years</b>   | ch, j<br><br>blends with 2 sounds<br>e.g. sp, st, sk, sm, sn,<br>pl, cl, fl | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ch becomes t ➤ chair becomes tair</li> <li>j becomes d ➤ jam becomes dam</li> <li>where 2 sounds are used together, one may be missed off ➤ spoon becomes poon or soon<br/>plate becomes pate or late</li> </ul>                                  |
| <b>5 – 6 years</b>   | sh, r<br><br>s-blends with 3<br>sounds e.g. spl, spr,<br>str                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sh becomes s ➤ shoe becomes sue</li> <li>r becomes w ➤ ring becomes wing<br/>train becomes twain</li> <li>spl becomes pl ➤ splash becomes plash</li> </ul>                                                                                        |
| <b>6 – 7 years</b>   | th                                                                          | Local accent means th becomes 'f' or a 'v' this is not an error and is accepted<br>bath becomes baf<br>this becomes vis                                                                                                                                                                  |