

SPEECH SOUND DISORDER

A Speech Sound Disorder is a term used to describe a range of difficulties that some children have with their speech. A child with a Speech Sound disorder has difficulty producing certain sounds and words that are expected by their age. There are two main types of Speech Sound Disorders: 1. Phonological and 2. Articulation

ARTICULATION VS PHONOLOGICAL SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

Articulation

Articulation refers to making sounds and involves the coordinated movements of the lips, tongue, teeth, palate (top of the mouth) and respiratory system (lungs).

Children with articulation disorders:

- Have difficulty making and/or forming speech sounds properly (e.g. they may have a lisp, so that 's' sounds like 'th')
- Have difficulty producing a certain sound (e.g. they can't produce the 'y' sound, saying 'lellow' rather than 'yellow').

Phonological

Phonology refers to the sequencing of sounds and how they are put together to make words.

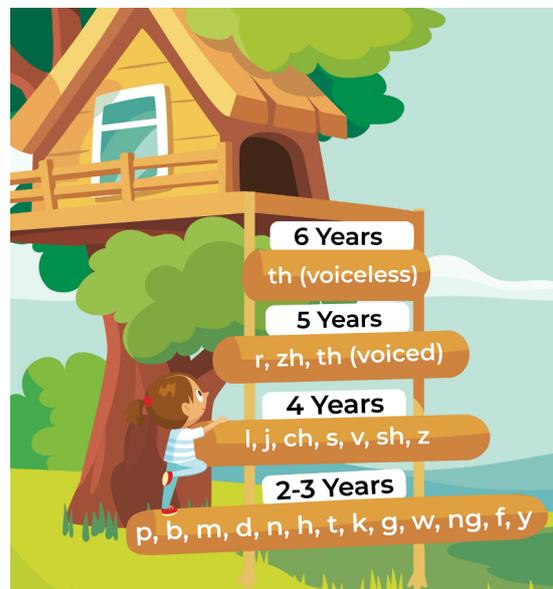
Children with phonological disorders:

- Make speech sounds correctly, but use certain sounds in the wrong position in words (e.g. a child may use the 't' sound instead of the 'k' sound, saying 'tap' instead of 'cap')
- Make mistakes with sounds in words (e.g. can say k in 'car' but will leave it out in certain words e.g. 'coo' instead of 'cook').

Signs and Symptoms:

- Difficulty coordinating movements of the jaw, tongue, and lips impacting articulation
- Difficulty understanding child's speech past the age of three years old
- Difficulty producing specific speech sounds
- Delayed speech development compared to standardised norms.
- Impaired motor coordination of facial muscles e.g. chewing or nose-blowing
- Hoarse, raspy, or nasal voice
- Abrupt changes in pitch or volume of speech
- Lack of breath support while speaking
- Lisp or stutter

Typical Speech Sound Acquisition:



The Role of the Speech Pathologist

Speech Pathologists can test your child's speech to determine whether they present with a Speech Sound Disorder. Speech Pathologists can provide speech therapy for children with Speech Sound Disorders by helping them say sounds correctly and clearly. Treatment can include the following:

- Learning the correct way to make sounds (e.g. directions on how to move the lips, tongue and jaw to create certain speech sounds)
- Learning to tell when sounds are right or wrong
- Practicing producing sounds in a variety of words, sentences and conversation

With appropriate speech therapy, many children with articulation or phonological Speech Sound Disorders will experience a significant improvement in their speech.