

# Development of Speech Sounds

Age of acquisition*	Speech Sound	Example
3 years	p b t d m n ng w y zh h	p <u>ig</u> b <u>e</u> t <u>o</u> d <u>o</u> m <u>e</u> n <u>o</u> s <u>ing</u> w <u>e</u> y <u>es</u> meas <u>ure</u> h <u>e</u>
3 – 3 ½ years	k g f	c <u>at</u> g <u>o</u> f <u>ish</u>
4 – 4½ years	l sh ch s blends l blends	l <u>ion</u> s <u>hip</u> c <u>hop</u> s <u>now</u> , s <u>wing</u> , s <u>top</u> , s <u>lip</u> , s <u>poon</u> ... f <u>lower</u> , p <u>lease</u> , c <u>lap</u> , g <u>lad</u> ...
4½ years	j	j <u>og</u>
	s – by <b>3 years</b> should no longer be substituting 't' or 'd' for the 's' sound, but 's' continues to develop past 3	s <u>un</u>
	z - by <b>3½ years</b> should no longer be substituting 'd' for the 'z' sound, but 'z' continues to develop past 3½	z <u>ebra</u>
5 – 6 years	r r blends	r <u>ed</u> b <u>read</u> , d <u>rink</u> , f <u>rog</u> , g <u>reen</u> , c <u>ry</u> ...
6 years	v - by <b>3½ years</b> should no longer be substituting 'b' for the 'v' sound, but 'v' continues to develop past 3½	v <u>ery</u>
8 – 8½ years	th - by <b>5 years</b> should no longer be substituting 't' or 'd' for the 'th' sounds, but 'th' continues to develop past 5	t <u>hink</u> t <u>his</u>

\*Age by which 75% of children use the speech sound listed accurately. Adapted from Bowen, C. (1998). *Developmental phonological disorders. A practical guide for families and teachers*. Melbourne: ACER Press.