



Normal Speech Development

0-18 MONTHS	<p>Do not worry if a child's words are not clear at this stage.</p> <p>Children will mainly use simple vowel sounds and some consonants. Ends of words will be omitted.</p>	
18 MONTHS – 2 ½ YEARS	<p>Ends of words are now beginning to develop.</p> <p>The last sound of a word may be the same as the first e.g. 'dog' may be 'dod' or 'gog'</p> <p>If there are two consonants at the beginning of a word, one will be missed out e.g. 'spoon' will be 'poon'</p> <p>Mum may understand what the child is saying although other people may not.</p>	m p b t d n
2 ½ - 3 YEARS	<p>Some sounds may be changed to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 'k' and 'g' may become 't' and 'd' (e.g. 'key' becomes 'tea')- 'f' may become 'p' (e.g. 'foot' becomes 'poot')- 's' may become 't' (e.g. 'sun' becomes 'tun')- <p>Longer words may become shortened (e.g. 'banana' – 'nana' 'umbrella' - 'bella')</p>	w k/c g f s z



3- 4 YEARS	<p>Most sounds of speech are now spoken clearly</p> <p>May still have difficulty with r y l ch j sh and th</p> <p>May start to use 's' in 'spoon' and 'star'</p>	<p>y l v sp st sk sm sn sw developing</p>
4-5 YEARS	<p>Should be able to understand what a child is saying at this stage</p> <p>May still have difficulty with th and r</p> <p>May leave out one of the sounds in consosnant blends (e.g. 'plate' becomes 'pate' 'blue' becomes 'bue'</p> <p>May have difficulty with sequencing in larger words e.g. 'elephant' becomes 'efant'</p>	<p>sh ch j</p>
5- 6 YEARS	<p>May still have difficulty with th and r</p> <p>Using 'l' now when it occurs with another consonant e.g. 'clown' 'blow' 'glue'</p>	<p>pl bl cl gl fl sl</p>
6-7 YEARS	<p>Mature speech</p> <p>Th and r now developed</p> <p>Will also use r when it occurs with another consonant e.g. grass, crane, frog</p>	<p>th r cr pr br fr tr dr</p>