



Speech and Language Information **For 3 to 5 year olds**



SPEECH SOUNDS:

At what age should your child be saying speech sounds correctly? The chart below is a general guideline and represents the age at which 90% of English speaking children produce single sounds at the word level (Crowe & McLeod, 2020). Please contact an Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologist if you have questions about the articulation skills of children from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds.

By 2 yrs 11 months	By 3 yrs 11 months	By 4 yrs 11 months	By 5 yrs 11 months	By 6 yrs 11 months
B, D, H, M, N, P, W	F, G, K, T, Y, NG	CH, J, L, S, SH, V, Z	R, TH (voiced)	TH (voiceless)

Many articulation errors are considered developmentally appropriate, depending on the child's age. Most age appropriate errors are common substitutions (fwhee/three, wion/lion). If your child is exhibiting patterns of errors, such as omitting many initial or final sounds (cu/cup, our/four) or "stopping" all sounds with continuous airflow (dit/six, darm/farm, do/shoe), that is less typical and likely a reason to contact a DASD Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologist. You may also want to reach out to a therapist if your child is not producing several sounds by the ages listed above or if people have difficulty understanding your child.



LANGUAGE:

This refers to a child's ability to understand language and use words or sentences to express ideas clearly. Please contact an Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologist if you have questions about the communication skills of children from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds.

Click [here](#) to see typical language milestones for 3-4 year olds

Click [here](#) to see typical language milestones for 4-5 year olds



FLUENCY:

Some children experience developmental stuttering, which often occurs between 2 and 4 years of age. Developmental stuttering is normal, and frequently emerges during periods of rapid language acquisition. Please see the chart below to learn more about the differences between developmental stuttering and stuttering. If your child is exhibiting characteristics of stuttering (beyond developmental stuttering), please reach out to one of our Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologists.

Characteristics of Developmental Stuttering	Characteristics of Stuttering
Whole word or phrase repetitions (I want, want, want that OR Can I, can I, can I have one?)	Sound prolongations (mmmmmmmy) Sound repetitions (b-b-baby) Blocks (child tries to speak but cannot)
Unawareness of repetitions	Child exhibits negative reactions toward his or her repetitions
No family history of stuttering	Family history of stuttering
	Child exhibits physical tension or secondary behaviors (such as eye blinking, head nods, etc.) associated with their disfluencies
Present for less than 6 months	Present for more than 6 months



If you have any questions or concerns about your child's skills related to speech sounds, language, or fluency, please contact one of our Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologists.

We're happy to help!

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