

What sounds do children say and when?

Age	Your child will probably use these sounds	Your child may NOT use these sounds
1½ - 2 yrs	m, n, p, b, t, d sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child may not use sounds at the ends of words.
2½ - 3 yrs	m, n, p, b, t, d f, s w, y, h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some long sounds like 's, f, v, sh, ch' may not have developed so he may say 'bideo' for video, 'bish' or 'bid' for fish or 'dun' for sun. He/she may not use 'k' and 'g' sounds but use a 't' or 'd' instead so he may say 'dar' for car and 'det' for get.
3 - 4 yrs	m, n, p, b, t, d, k, g f, v, s perhaps sh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blend sounds like 'sp', 'st', 'bl', 'cr' may not have developed so he/she may say 'poon' for spoon, 'bue' for blue and 'cisps' for crisps.
4 - 5 yrs	m, n, p, b, t, d f, v, s, z, sh, ch, j w, l, y, h Blends may start to develop e.g. 'sp', 'st', 'bl', 'cr'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children often don't learn to use 'th' or 'r' sounds until they are at least 6 yrs old. Many adults don't use these sounds either and it is unlikely that a speech and language therapist would work on these sounds.

By the age of 2½ your child's speech should be understood by his close family.

By the age of 3 your child's speech should be understood by familiar adults outside the home but it will not be perfect.

By the age of 4 your child's speech should be understood most of the time.

from 'Let's Talk with Under 5's' © Liz Elks & Henrietta McLachlan 2005.