

Speech Sound Development

Norms taken from Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation, Second Edition (2000)

By age 2...

Initial Sounds
/b,d,h,m,n,p/

Medial Sounds
/b,m,n/

Final Sounds
/m,p/

Overall Intelligibility:
Understood ~50% of the time
by unfamiliar listeners.

By age 3...

Initial Sounds
/f,g,k,t,w/

Medial Sounds
/f,g,k,p,t/ and "ng"
(as in "singer")

Final Sounds
/b,d,g,k,n,t/
Generally "marking"
all final consonants.

Overall Intelligibility:
Understood ~75% of the time
by unfamiliar listeners.

By age 4...

Initial Sounds
/kw/
Consonant clusters
begin to emerge

Medial Sounds
/d/

Final Sounds
/f/

Overall Intelligibility:
Understood almost 100% of
the time by unfamiliar
listeners.
Marking all syllables in words.

By age 5...

Initial Sounds
/l,s,bl/ "ch," "j," (as
in "jump") "sh" and
"y"

Medial Sounds
/l,s,z/ "ch," "j" (as
in "pajamas") and
"sh"

Final Sounds
/l,s,r,v,z/ "ng," (as
in ring) "ch," "j,"
(as in "smudge")
and "sh"

Overall Intelligibility:
Speech begins to sound like
that of an adult

Later-developing sounds

By age 6...
Children begin to develop the remainder of their /r/
sounds.

By age 7...
Children begin to develop voiced and voiceless "th" in all
positions of words.