

Speech Sound Development

Approximate age	Usually children will:
18-24 months	Use a limited number of sounds in their words – often these are p, b, t, d, m and w. Children will also often miss the ends off words at this stage. They can usually be understood about half of the time.
2-3 years	Use a wider range of speech sounds. However, many children will shorten longer words, such as saying 'nana' instead of 'banana'. They may also have difficulty where lots of sounds happen together in a word, e.g. they may say 'pider' instead of 'spider.' They often have problems saying more difficult sounds like 'sh', 'ch', 'th' and 'r.' However, people that know them can mostly understand them.
3-4 years	Have difficulties with a small number of sounds – for example 'r', 'w', 'l', 'f', 'th', 'sh', 'ch' and 'z'.
4-5 years	Use most sounds effectively. However, they may have some difficulties with more difficult words such as 'scribble' or 'elephant'.

I CAN Help enquiry service www.ican.org.uk/help

Call 020 7843 2544 to arrange a free phone call from one of our speech and language therapists or email enquiries@ican.org.uk

Talking Point www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Visit this website for information about children's communication.

