

Communication & Language Monitoring – guidance table

Guidance on typical development of speech sounds	
Stage	Speech sounds: <i>(Developing speech and being understood applies to all languages. Order of acquiring specific sounds – here in English – may vary with other languages)</i>
0-11 months	Babbles using a range of sound combinations, with changes in pitch, rhythm and loudness. Babbles with intonation and rhythm of home language ('jargon').
8-20 months	Speech consists of a combination of 'jargon' and some real words and may be difficult to understand.
16-26 months	Many immature speech patterns, so speech may not be clear. May leave out last sounds or substitute sounds (e.g. 'tap' for 'cap') Uses most vowels and m,p,b,n,t,d,w,h.
22-36 months	Speech becoming clearer, and usually understood by others by 36 months although some immature speech patterns still evident. May still substitute sounds or leave out last sound. Emerging sounds including k,g,f,s,z,l,y.
30-50 months	Speech mostly can be understood by others even in connected speech. Emerging use of ng, sh, ch, j,v,th, r – may be inconsistent. Sound clusters emerging (e.g. pl in play, sm in smile) though some may be simplified (e.g. 'gween' for 'green')
40-60+ months	Overall, fully intelligible to others. May be still developing r and th. May simplify complex clusters (e.g. skr, str)