

A GUIDE TO SPEECH DEVELOPMENT + MILESTONES

18 months

- about 25% intelligible (understood) by familiar and unfamiliar listeners
- produces jargon with some consonants (i.e. /m/, /b/, /d/, /p/, and vowels)

2 years

- 50-75% intelligible (understood) by familiar listeners
- about 50% intelligible (understood) by unfamiliar listeners
- accurately produces /b/, /d/, /h/, /m/, /n/, and /p/

3 years

- 75-100% intelligible (understood) to familiar listeners
- about 75% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners
- accurately produces /f/, /g/, /k/, /t/, /w/, and /ng/

3 years cont.

- elimination of final consonant deletion (i.e. "ca" for "cat") by around 3 years
- elimination of fronting (i.e. "pit" for "pick") by around 3.5 years
- elimination of stopping /f/, /s/ (i.e. "pan" for "fan") by around 3 years and /v/, /z/ (i.e. "doo" for "zoo"; "bery" for "very") by around 3.5 years

4 years

- 100% intelligible to familiar and unfamiliar listeners
- accurately produces /l/, /j/, /ch/, /s/, /v/, /sh/, and /z/
- elimination of syllable deletion (i.e. "nana" for "banana") by around 4 years
- elimination of stopping /sh/, /ch/, and /j/ (i.e. "dump" for "jump") by around 4.5 years
- elimination of cluster reduction without /s/ (i.e. "pane" for "plane") by around 4 years

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5 years

- produces /r/
- produces /zh/ (i.e. treasure)
- produces voiced /th/ (i.e. th-ey, wea-th-er)
- elimination of cluster reduction with /s/ (i.e. "top" for "stop") by around 5 years

6 years

- produces voiceless /th/ (i.e. too-th, th-ink)
- elimination of gliding (i.e. "wed" for "red"; "yeyo" for "yellow") by around 6 years

NOTES

If you have questions or concerns about your child's speech and articulation development, we recommend consulting with your primary doctor or scheduling a consultation to discuss and determine next best steps for your family.