

Articulation Development

Based on the studies by Wellman et al. (1931), Poole (1934) Templin (1957), Sander (1972) Prather et al. (1973) and Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation 2, GFTA-2, (2000)

<i>Individual Speech Sound</i>	<i>Average Range of Mastery in years</i>
p	2-3
m	2-3
h	2-3
n	2-3
w	2-3
b	2-4
k	2-4
g	2-4
d	2-4
t	2-4
ng	2-5
f	3-4
y	3-5
r	3-6
l	3-6
s	3-6*
ch	3-6*
sh	3-6*
z	3-7
j	4-7*
v	4-6*
th(VL)	5-7
th(V)	5-7

<i>Speech Sound Cluster</i>	<i>Age 85% of children will Master Production</i>
kw	4
bl	5
br	6
dr	6
fl	6
fr	6
gl	6
gr	6
kl	6
kr	6
pl	6
st	6
tr	6
sl	7
sp	7
sw	7

These charts were compiled using data from the following six research studies: Wellman et al. (1931), Poole (1934) Templin (1957), Sander (1972) Prather et al. (1973) and Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation 2, GFTA-2, (2000)

This chart represents an average age range when a child should master the production of a specific sound or sound cluster based on the data from the studies cited above.

* Age ranges marked with the asterisk had the largest discrepancy between studies regarding when a sound was considered mastered. For example, while the GFTA-2 found the /s/ to be mastered in 85% of children by age 5, Poole (1934) and Sander (1972) found the sound to be mastered by ages 7.5 and 8 respectively. In addition, the GFTA-2 found the sh, ch, and j sounds to be mastered by age 5, whereas Sander (1972) found these to be mastered by 90% of children by age 7. The /v/ also had a discrepancy where the GFTA-2 (2000) found this sound to be mastered by age 6 while Sander (1972) found it to be mastered by age 8. The bottom line, of course, is that all children develop their individual sounds differently, and this chart should be used as a general educational guide only.