

Common Phonological Processes*

Substitution Processes: Sound changes where one sound class is replaced for another class of sounds

Phonological Process	Definition	Examples	Age Eliminated By
Backing***	Substitution of a sound produced in the front of the mouth, with a sound produced in the back of the mouth	"cop" for "top" "boke" for boat	No information available
Fronting (Velar or Palatal)	Substitution of a sound produced in the back of the mouth, with a sound produced in the front of the mouth	"doat" for goat "tandy" for candy "sip" for ship	3-6
Gliding	The substitution for a glide sound (w, y) for a liquid sound (l, r)	"pway" for play "wun: for run "yewo" for yellow	5-0
Stopping	Substitution of a stop sound (b,p,t,d,k,g) for a fricative (f,v,s,z,h, th,sh and zh) or affricate sound (ch or j)	"tope" for soap "cat" for catch "puddle" for puzzle	/f/ & /s/ = 3-0 /v/ & /z/ = 3-6 sh, ch & j = 4-6 th = 5-0
Vowelization or Vocalization	Substitution of a vowel sound for a liquid (l, r) sound	"Hay-uh" for hair "peopo" for people	No information available

Syllable Structure Processes: Sound changes where sounds or syllables become reduced, omitted, or repeated.

Phonological Process	Definition	Examples	Age Eliminated By
Cluster Reduction	Reduction of a consonant cluster (two consonants next to one another) to a single sound	"tuck" for truck "sool" for school	4-0
Final Consonant Deletion	Deletion of the final sound (consonant) in a word	"cuh" for cup "dah" for dog	3-0
Initial Consonant Deletion***	Deletion of the initial sound (consonant) in a word	"up" for cup "uv" for love	No Information Available
Unstressed Syllable Deletion	Deletion of an unstressed syllable	"puter" for computer "nana" for banana	4-0

Assimilation Processes: Sound changes where one sound will start to sound like another, surrounding sound

Phonological Process	Definition	Examples	Age Eliminated By
Assimilation (Harmony)	Also called "harmony", refers to when a sound starts to sound like a surrounding sound	"beb" for bed "gank" for thank	3-9
Coalescence	Substitution of a phoneme that is different from the two adjacent phonemes yet takes on features of the target	"foke" for smoke "lath" for last	No Information Available
Voicing or Devoicing	Voicing: A the substitution of a voiced consonant for an unvoiced consonant (typically in the beginning of a word) Devoicing: the substitution of a voiceless consonant for a voiced consonant	"gup" for cup "back" for bag	3-0
Reduplication	Repetition of a complete or incomplete syllable	"wawa" for water "baba" for bottle	3-0

*This list is not exhaustive. This is simply a list of more commonly seen phonological processes. Please note that some children will never use certain processes.

**These are the most common phonological processes seen in normal speech acquisition

***These processes are usually seen in more severe phonological delays

This chart was created by Katie Yeh, MA CCC-SLP 2011 using the following references:

Bowen, Caroline, (1998). Typical speech development: A gradual acquisition of the speech sound system. Retrieved from <http://speech-language-therapy.com/acquisition.html> (9-25-2011).

Shipley, K.G. & McAfee, J.G.,(1998). Assessment in speech-language pathology: A resource manual (2nd edition). San Diego, CA: Singular Publishing Group.

Hegde, M.N., (2001). Pocket Guide to Assessment in Speech-Language Pathology (2nd edition). San Diego, CA: Singular Publishing Group.

