



# Phonological Processes

Phonological processes are patterns of sound errors that typically developing children use to simplify their speech as they are learning to talk. When a phonological process persists beyond the typical age at which it should have resolved, a child is said to have a phonological disorder or delay.

Phonological Process	Example	Age at which process is typically gone
<b>Backing:</b> A front/alveolar sound is substituted with a back/velar sound	toy → koy door → goor	Usually seen in more severe phonological delays
<b>Initial consonant deletion:</b> A consonant at the start of a word is deleted	cup → up more → ore	
<b>Pre-vocalic voicing:</b> A voiceless sound before a vowel is substituted with a voiced sound	cat → gat	3 years
<b>Word final devoicing:</b> A voiced consonant at the end of the word is substituted with a voiceless consonant	bed → bet	
<b>Final consonant deletion:</b> A consonant at the end of a word is deleted	cat → ca	
<b>Stopping of /f/ and /s/:</b> The fricative sounds /f/ and /s/ are substituted with a stop sound	fish → bish sock → dock	
<b>Reduplication:</b> A complete or incomplete syllable is repeated	water → wawa	
<b>Fronting:</b> A back/velar sound is substituted with a front/velar sound	car → tar girl → dirl	3 years 6 months
<b>Stopping of /v/ and /z/:</b> The fricative sounds /v/ and /z/ are substituted with a stop sound	vacuum → bacuum zip → dip	
<b>Assimilation:</b> A consonant sound starts to sound like another sound in the word	bus → bub kitty cat → titty tat	3 years 9 months
<b>Weak syllable deletion:</b> Deletion of a weak/unstressed syllable from a word	elephant → efant banana → nana	4 years
<b>Consonant cluster reduction:</b> A consonant sound is deleted from a consonant cluster	spoon → poon train → tain	
<b>Stopping of /sh/, /ch/ and /j/:</b> The fricative sounds /sh/, /ch/ and /j/ are substituted with a stop sound	sheep → deep chair → tair jump → dump	4 years 6 months
<b>Gliding of /l/ and /r/:</b> The /r/ sound is substituted with a /w/ sound; The /l/ sound is substituted with a /w/ or /y/ sound	rabbit → wabbit lion → wion leaf → yeaf	5 years
<b>Stopping of /th/:</b> The fricative sound /th/ is substituted with a stop sound	thing → ting them → dem	
<b>Labialisation:</b> The /th/ sound is substituted with a /f/ sound	thumb → fum thank you → fank you	7 years