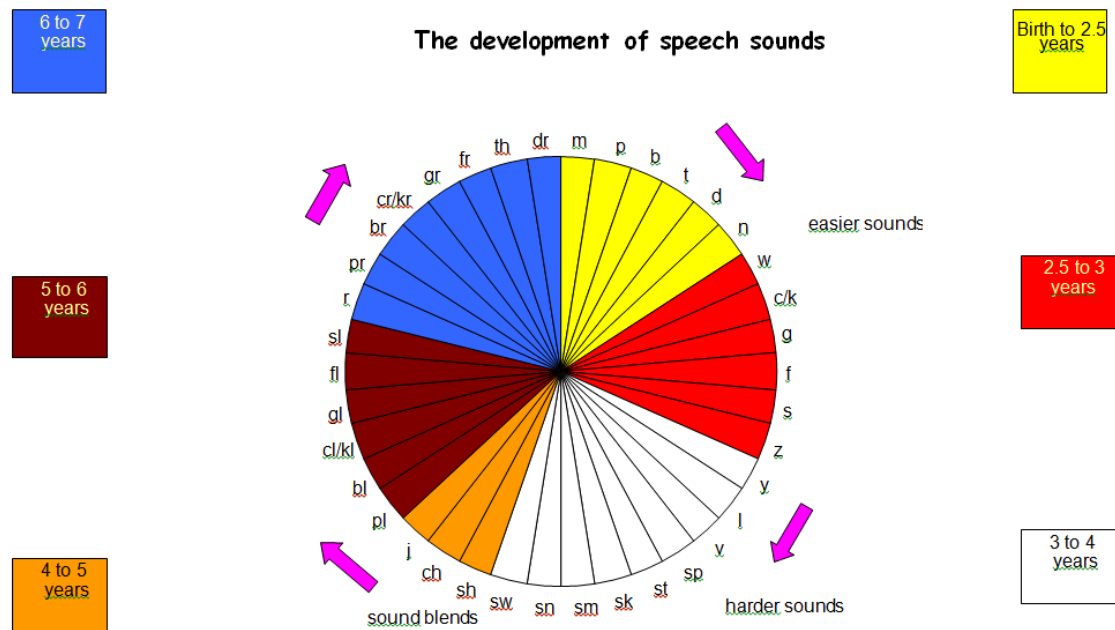


Supporting Speech Sound Development

Children's speech sounds continue to develop until the age of 7 years old. It is common for children to replace a sound with another sound. However, most children grow out of this by the time they start school and will have a range of consonants (see the speech wheel below).



Strategies

- Model the correct sounds e.g. if the child says "tun" for "sun", you would say "yes sun".
- Do not ask them to copy or repeat you
- Make a scrapbook of pictures starting with the sound you are working on
- Be aware that single consonants (e.g. "s") will develop before consonant blends (e.g. "sp" and "st")
- Encourage them to show you or gesture if you don't understand what they have said

Games/activities

Listening games- Children need to practise listening for the sound. Try simple games such as labelling two buckets with your child's target sound and the sound they replace it with (your child's Speech and Language Therapist will identify these sounds for you). Make one of the sounds. Your child can then throw a bean bag/ball into the bucket which represents the sound you made. Make it harder by adding a vowel on to the end of the sound e.g. if their target sound is "s" but in their production they replace it with a "t" you could say words such as "see", "sar", "soo", "tar", "tor" and "too" etc.)

Make a scrap book - once the Speech and Language Therapist has identified a target sound, gather together pictures starting with that sound to start to make a scrap book. Your child should be encouraged to help with the scrap book, draw new pictures, stick photos in or cut them from magazines. Each day look through the scrap book and add new pictures and talk about the picture. Your child does not need to say these words but you should model the words for them, emphasising the target sound.

Supporting Speech Sound Development

Turn taking games - use simple turn taking games, such as skittles, to practice your child's target sound (your Speech and Language Therapist will identify a sound to start work on). Each time you or your child has a turn at the game practise saying the sound on its own. Listening is important too, so encourage your child to listen to how you say the sound when it is your turn. Other turn taking games that work well with practising sounds are Pop up Pirate, Jenga, fishing and Monkey Business.

Special bag - fill a bag with some everyday objects. Take it in turns to put your hand into the bag and pull something out. Say what you have pulled from the bag. Talk about the sound it starts with and then clap the parts of the words e.g. "banana" that starts with a "b" sound, let's clap it together "ba-na-na". Ask if they can think of anything else that starts with the "b" sound?

Treasure Hunt - Make a simple treasure list (including pictures/photos). The list will focus on the sound provided by your Speech and Language Therapist. For example, things starting with "p" may include "pen", "pig", "paint" and "pot". Everyone can now go and see if they can find all the things on their list. You can make it harder by coming up with a word e.g. "treasure" and asking the children to go and find something that starts with each letter of the word. For example "t"- teddy, "r"- rubber, "e"- elephant... The first person to find all of the objects to complete the word is the winner.

Apps to try-

Articulation Station Pro (Little Bee Speech)

Articulation Games (Virtual Speech Center Inc.)

Phonics Studio (Innovative Investments Limited)

Articulation Scenes (Smarty Ears)

Smart Oral Motor (Smarty Ears)

Useful websites:

www.ican.org.uk

www.talkingpoint.org.uk (phonology)

www.mommyspeechtherapy.com

www.languageforlearning.co.uk