

Phonological Processes Chart

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Patterns young children use to make words easier to say while they learn to talk, and the age by which each has usually gone. Write what you hear in the last column.

Pattern	Example	What happens	Usually gone by	What I heard
Final consonant deletion	 boat "bo"	Leaves off the last sound of a word.	3	
Velar assimilation	 dog "gog"	Changes a sound to k or g because there is a k or g nearby.	3	
Nasal assimilation	 bunny "nunny"	Changes a sound to m or n because there is an m or n nearby.	3	
Stopping: f and s	 fan "pan"	Says a short, stopped sound (p, t) in place of a long one.	3	
Stopping: v and z	 van "ban"	Says b or d in place of v or z.	4	
Fronting	 key "tee"	Says a sound from the back of the mouth (k, g) at the front (t, d).	4	
Deaffrication	 chip "ship"	Says sh in place of ch, or zh in place of j.	4	
Weak syllable deletion	 banana "nana"	Drops the quiet beat of a longer word.	4	
Cluster reduction	 frog "fog"	Says one sound of a two-sound start, when there is no s in it.	4	
Cluster reduction with s	 spoon "poon"	Drops the s (or the other sound) from an s start.	5	
Stopping: sh, ch, j, th	 shoe "too"	Says t or d in place of sh, ch, j or the th in that.	5	
Gliding	 rabbit "wabbit"	Says w or y in place of r or l.	6-7	



Phonological Processes: Notes for the Grown-Up

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An at-home reference, not a diagnosis. It does not replace an evaluation by a speech-language pathologist.

Worth mentioning to a speech-language pathologist sooner

These patterns are not usually part of learning to talk, at any age. Hearing one is a reason to ask, not a reason to worry.

Backing a front sound moved to the back of the mouth, *"kime" for time*

Initial consonant deletion the first sound left off, *"oy" for toy*

ADULT Listen in ordinary talk

Notice what your child says while playing or chatting, not in a test. Write the word and what you heard in the last column on page 1.

ADULT Check the age

A pattern your child uses before the age in the chart is usually part of learning to talk. The ages are when most children have stopped, not deadlines.

ADULT Ask a speech-language pathologist

Ask if a pattern is still there well past its age, if you hear one of the patterns above, or if you are worried. Take this sheet with you. ASHA ProFind (asha.org/profind) lists certified speech-language pathologists.

ADULT AND CHILD Practice with pairs

Two words that differ by one sound, like key and tea, help a child hear the difference: say one, and let your child point to the picture. Five minutes is plenty.

Ages: ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association), Practice Portal, "Selected Phonological Patterns". The age is when most children have stopped using the pattern; ASHA notes it varies a great deal from child to child. Patterns to mention sooner: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, phonological processes chart.



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