

Worried about your child's Sound Development?

Many children experience difficulty learning and using the sounds that make up the spoken words of our language. This can be very worrying for parents and teachers, as it is often difficult for them to know whether the child will "grow out of it".

MAKING SOUNDS:

Children should acquire certain sounds by certain ages. All sounds should be mastered by **seven** years of age and most sounds should be mastered before this.

The list below shows the ages by which 75% of children are correctly producing their sounds (Kilminster and Laird 1983). If your child is still having difficulties producing these sounds beyond the age represented in the table below, it is highly unlikely that they will "grow out of it" without some professional help.

| AGE | SOUNDS ACQUIRED |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 years | b, p, m, w, h, ng, n, t, d, g, y |
| 3 1/2 years | k and f |
| 4 years | l, sh and ch |
| 4 1/2 years | s, z and j |
| 5 years | r |
| 6 years | v |
| 7 years | th |

Remember - early detection is the key to successful treatment.

Using sounds

There are a group of children that can make the above sounds in isolation but when it comes to using those sounds in words, may have great difficulty putting the correct sound in the right place in the word. These children have often mislearned whole patterns of speech. These patterns can include:

- Final consonant deletion - this process involves leaving off the end sounds of words
- Medial consonant deletion - this process involves leaving out the middle sounds of words
- Initial consonant deletion - this process involves leaving off the first sound of words
- Fronting - this process involves sounds that we would normally make in the back of our mouth being made in the front of our mouth
- Voicing - this process involves making the quiet (voiceless) sounds into noisy (voiced) sounds
- Stopping - this process involves making the long sounds in English into short sounds
- Weak syllable deletion - this process involves leaving out the softest part of the word
- Assimilation - this process involves changing a sound in a word to match another sound in the word
- Consonant cluster reduction - this process involves simplifying a blend such as /bl/ or /str/ to one sound
- Gliding - this process involves changing the /l/ and /r/ sounds to either a /y/ or /w/ sound.

These children may display only one, or a combination of these patterns, resulting in speech that is very difficult to understand. Children with these speech difficulties are in the 'highly at risk' category for reading and spelling difficulties at school. These children should have their phonological awareness skills assessed in the second half of their pre-school year.

If a child has delayed sound development, it can be difficult for people to understand the child's speech. People may assume that the child is younger than what they really are. The child may become self-conscious about the way they speak. The child may be teased at kindy or school. The child may even have some difficulties learning to read and spell.

It is best to treat children as early as possible however older children and adults can be helped with their pronunciation of sounds also.

Speech Pathologists are trained to assess, diagnose and treat difficulties in this and all other areas of communication.

What to do:

Contact us at Tyquin Group Speech Pathology 3399 8028 to discuss your child's sound development.

About Tyquin group

Tyquin group is a professional clinic containing a practice of Speech Pathology and a Reading Clinic .

As speech pathologists, we are working toward helping the 14% of Australians that have a communication disability. In order to do this we actively promote not only our practice but the profession as a whole.

Language and Communication sciences over recent years have made enormous advances. Unfortunately there is little awareness of the large and diverse role that Speech Pathologists can play in the support and education of our young learning children.

In our Reading Clinic, we aim to help poor readers when other attempts have failed. We willingly explore the best technology on offer anywhere in the world. We also develop techniques to use in concert with this technology in order to achieve the most effective results.

Philosophically we strive to achieve results quickly. Though this is sometimes ambitious and not always possible, we believe that it is a worthy goal.

Tyquin group invites you to regard us as a point of contact for further information about any queries you may have.

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Sound Development

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