



Public Site

Articulation Tips at Home

Developing articulation skills is a difficult task. It is natural for young children to make speech errors as their language develops. Most children will eventually go on to develop normal speech without errors. Other children may continue to make errors beyond the age when other children have mastered those sounds. These children may need some additional support.

The chart below gives general guidelines of sound mastery:

90% of Children Have Mastered These Sounds By Age	
p, d, m, w, h, n	2 years old
t, b, k, g	3 years old
f, v, y	4 to 5 years old
s, z, j, l, r, sh, ch, th, blends	5 to 7 years old

Regardless of where your child stands on their journey to acquiring their speech sounds, you can help with their pronunciation, right at home.

For example: Does your child say things like “My tar is fast” or “I saw the Wion King?”

Here are some easy and effective ideas for how to work on speech skills at home:

- Model Correctly:** Repeat what your child says but say it correctly. Your child does not have to say the correct form after you. What’s important is that your child **hears** the correct form. Be sure to be *face-to-face* as much as possible when you model, so that your child can see the movements of the mouth that are needed for making the sound.
Example:
Child: “I need a poon please.”
Adult: “Oh you need a **ssspoon**. Sure, I’ll get you a **ssspoon**.”
- Emphasize:** Choose one sound that your child often says incorrectly. Emphasize the correct sound by saying it many times throughout the day.
Example: To emphasize the correct use of s-blends (S-pot, S-top, S-now, etc)
 - Play familiar games like “I Spy”. Note: This is a great one while taking walks!
 - Read books like “The Very Busy Spider.”
 - Look for words or things in your child’s daily life that use the sound, such as “stop, start, spoon, spaghetti, stare, sleep, step, snag, snack, sniff, swim, slice, store, etc.”
- Give Choices:** Ask your child to choose which word sounds better.
Child: “Wead me a story.”
Adult: “Hmm, **Wead** me a story? Or **Read** me a story?” Which way sounds better?
Child: The second one. Note: They may even try to correct themselves. If they do, you can help them by showing them how the sound is made (i.e., modeling the position).

Additional ideas for practicing speech sounds can be accessed online via Google search:
<http://www.midlandesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/8-Parent-Tips-for-Articulation.pdf>

