

Speech Delay

Speech sounds are the sounds we use in words. If we use the right sounds, in the right order, then people can understand what we are saying.



When children are developing their speech, they may replace the expected sounds with unexpected sounds e.g. saying "tat" instead of "cat." As they grow older, it is expected that they will grow out of making these errors. However, some children need additional support with this. A Speech Delay is diagnosed when a child is more than 1 year behind the expected sound development for their age.

Here are the typical milestones for children's speech development:

- ▶ By the age of 2 1/2 yrs old - using the p, b, m, n, t and d sounds correctly.
- ▶ By the age of 3 1/2 yrs old - using the k, g, f, s, y and h sounds correctly.
- ▶ By the age of 4 1/2 yrs old - using the sh, ch, j, z, l and v sounds correctly.
- ▶ By the age of 5 1/2 yrs old - using the l and s blends (e.g. cl, bl, gl and sp, sm, sk) correctly.
- ▶ By the age of 7 yrs old - using the r sound, r blends (e.g. cr, tr, fr, gr) and th sound correctly

If you are concerned about your child's speech development, please get in contact with your local NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service or talk to their school/nursery setting/Health Visitor.