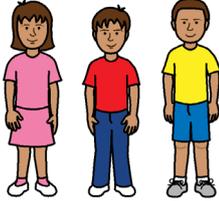


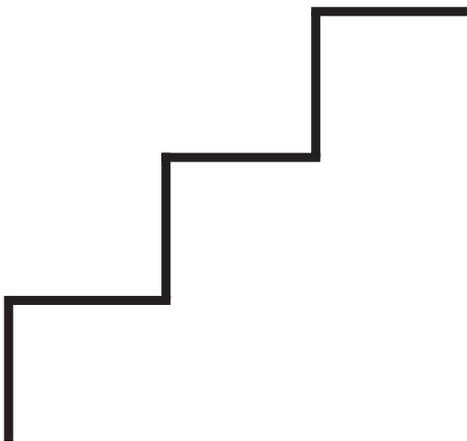
# Learning speech



## Preschool and school aged children



Learning language and speech helps to learn reading and writing skills.



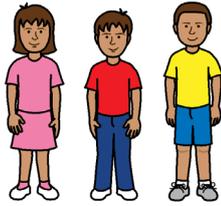
### Normal stages

Each child learns at different times

**but**

most children should reach milestones or levels.

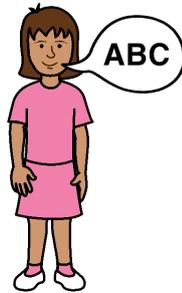
These are called normal stages.



## Preschool children

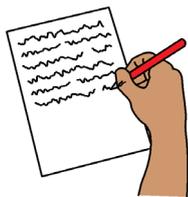
3 to 5 years old

- Children start to use long sentences
- People outside of the family should understand your child's speech **most** of the time
- Anyone should understand your child when they are 5 years old, **nearly all** of the time.



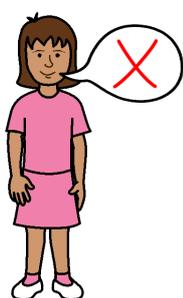
By 4 years old children

- say most sounds correctly. For example, m, n, h, w, p, b, t, d, k, g, ng, f, y, s, z, ch, j, sh, l
- use sounds together at the start and end of words. For example,
  - “bl” in blue
  - “nd” in hand.
- say most vowel sounds in words correctly. For example, ay, oh, ee.



Between 4 to 5 years children

- start to learn skills for reading and writing
- are aware of words that rhyme. For example, cat – bat
- are aware of the beats in words. For example, am-bu-lance.



**What do many children find hard?**

- Some sounds . For example, r, v and th.
  - “wed” for red
  - “berry” for very
  - “fank you” for thank you
- Some groups of sounds. For example,
  - “scr” in scratch
  - “str” in strong
- Sounds in long words. For example,
  - caterpillar
  - spaghetti
- Some children say “s” as “th”. This may be called a lisp.

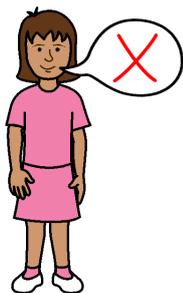


## How can parents help?

If you are worried contact a speech pathologist.

## When to contact a speech pathologist?

Your child



- is hard to understand
- finds it hard to speak and gets cross
- uses very few words
- does **not** use sounds at the start of words.

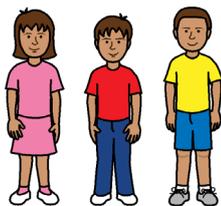
For example, says “ish” for fish.

## Who else can help?

You can have your child’s hearing checked.

Contact an audiologist for a hearing test.

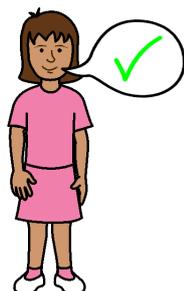




## School aged children

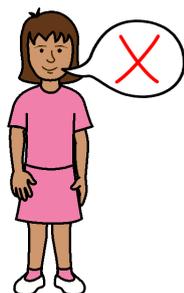
### 5 years old or more

When your child starts school it should be easy for everyone to understand their speech.



### What can most children do?

- Say all sounds well
- Start to know that speech sounds match written letters
- Hear and make rhyming words
- Hear and count the beats in words
- Make sentences with words that start with the same sound. For example, big brown bear
- Tell you what the first sound is in their name
- Tell you what the letter is called
- Break up the sounds in a small word.  
For example, c-a-t.



### What do lots of children still find hard?

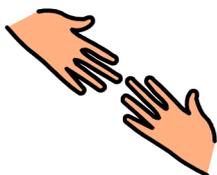
Up to 8 to 9 years old “th” sounds.

For example, thumb. Also, the “s” and “z” sounds when their front teeth fall out.

Children can make sounds together but may find it hard with sounds like “r” and “l”.

For example,

- “scwatch” for scratch
- long words like hippopotamus, pumpkin.



### How can parents help?

- Read to your child.
- Sing songs
- Play rhyming games
- Play “I spy”.



Contact a speech pathologist if you are worried

- your child is different to the normal stages
- adults cannot understand your 3 year old child.



## Where can you get help?

Contact a speech pathologist in your local area.

Speech pathologists can

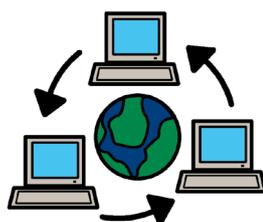
- do an assessment
- give advice
- give therapy
- find the right tools for you.

## Find a local speech pathologist

Speech Pathology Australia

Website [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Click on - Find a Speech Pathologist.



## How do you become a speech pathologist?

You need to do a course at University.

To find out more contact

Speech Pathology Australia

Phone 1300 368 835

Website [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Click on - information for the community.

Scope's Communication Resource Centre wrote the Easy English.  
September 2013 [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)

To see the original, contact Speech Pathology Australia  
[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

Mayer-Johnson LLC says we can use the Picture Communication  
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