Quick Reference Chart

Speech Sound Acquisition by Age

(based on a compilation of 15 English speech acquisition studies by McLeod and Crowe, 2018)



SPEECH LANGUAGE

PATHOLOGY







VOCABULARY

AGE	WORDS
12 MONTHS	5-10
18 MONTHS	50-100
24 MONTHS	200-300
3 YEARS	900+
4 YEARS	1500+
5 YEARS	2500+

MLU

Average number of words in a phrase		
AGE	WORDS	
24 MONTHS	2	
28 MONTHS	2-3	
35 MONTHS	3	
42 MONTHS	3-4	

Phonological Processes

Process	Example	Age of Elimination
Final Consonant Deletion	ma/map	3
Assimilation	bub/bus	3
Fronting	tat/cat	3.5
Stopping	pan/fan	3.5-5
Cluster Reduction	top/stop	4-5
Gliding	yeyo/yellow	6

REMEMBER

Development occurs at different rates. If a child is not meeting norms, refer to a Speech Language Pathologist to ensure there is no underlying disorder.



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