

**HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR ARTICULATION**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH**

Speech is a complicated process that takes a child years to learn. The child learns to speak by hearing it, and imitating what he hears. Some sounds are harder to learn than others, and some children do not master all of the sounds until the age of seven and a half to eight years.

Many parents become concerned when a child doesn't seem to learn the sounds as fast as another child. Although all children do not develop speech at the same age, research studies show that specific sounds are normally acquired by a certain age.

The following information was obtained from the Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation-2. The data is based on the age at which 85% of GFTA-2 standardization sample correctly produced consonant and consonant cluster sounds. The data below includes the 38 consonant clusters assessed in the Sounds-in Words portion of the GFTA-2.

**SOUND DEVELOPMENT NORMS**

Age	Initial Position	Medial Position	Final Position
2	b, d, h, m, n, p	b, m, n	m, p
3	f, g, k, t, w	f, g, k, ng, p, t	b, d, g, k, n, t
4	kw	d	F
5	ch, j, l, s, sh, y, bl	ch, j, l, s, sh, z	l, ng, ch, j, s, sh, r, v, z
6	r, v, br, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, dk, kr, pl, st, tr	r, v	
7	z, sl, sp, sw, th (voiced sound), th (voiceless sound)	th (voiced sound)	th (voiceless sound)
8		th ( voiceless sound)	

**TN Guidelines- Speech and Language Impairment- 2002**

By Tennessee guidelines, sound productions are not significantly delayed unless they have not been acquired a year beyond the stated age of acquisition, as outlined above.