



Phonological processes are predictable pronunciation errors children make as they are learning to talk like adults. Below is a list of phonological processes that found in children’s speech as they are learning the adult sound-system of English:

Phonological Process	Example	Description	Appropriate Age
Context sensitive voicing	“Pig” is pronounced as “Big” “Car” is pronounced as “Gar”	A voiceless sound is replaced by a voiced sound. Other examples might include /t/ being replaced by /d/, or /f/ being replaced by /v/.	Up to 3 years
Word-final devoicing	“Red” is pronounced as “Ret” “Bag” is pronounced as “Bak”	A final voiced consonant in a word is replaced by a voiceless consonant. Here /d/ has been replaced by /t/ and /g/ has been replaced by /k/.	Up to 3 years
Final consonant deletion	“Home” is pronounced as “Hoe” “Cat” is pronounced as “Ca”	The final consonant in the word is omitted. In these examples, /m/ is omitted from “home” and /t/ is omitted from “Cat.”	Up to 3 years 3 months
Velar fronting	“Kiss” is pronounced as “Tiss” “Give” is pronounced as “Div” “Wing” is pronounced as “Win”	A velar consonant, that is a sound that is normally made with the middle of the tongue in contact with the palate towards the back of the mouth, is replaced with consonant produced at the front of the mouth. Therefore, /k/ is replaced by /t/, /g/ is replaced by /d/, and “ng” is replaced by /n/.	Up to 3 years 6 months
Palatal fronting	“Ship” is pronounced as “Sip” “Measure” is pronounced as “Mezza”	The fricative consonants “sh” and “zh” are replaced by fricatives that are made further forward on the palate, towards the front teeth. “sh” is replaced by /s/, and “zh” is replaced by /z/.	Up to 3 years 6 months
Consonant harmony	“Cupboard” is pronounced as “Pubbed” “Dog” is pronounced as “Gog”	The pronunciation of the whole word is influenced by the presence of a particular sound in the word. In these examples, the /b/ in “Cupboard” causes the /k/ to be replaced by /p/, and the /g/ in “Dog” causes /d/ to be replaced by /g/.	Up to 3 years 9 months

Weak syllable deletion	<p>“Telephone” is pronounced as “Teffone”</p> <p>“Tyding” is pronounced as “Tying”</p>	Syllables are either stressed or unstressed. In “Telephone” and “Tyding” the second syllable is unstressed or weak. In this phonological process, weak syllables are omitted when the child says the word.	Up to 4 years
Cluster Reduction	<p>“Spider” is pronounced as “Pider”</p> <p>“Ant” is pronounced as “At”</p>	Consonant clusters occur when two or three consonants occur in sequence in a word. In cluster reduction part of the cluster is omitted. In these examples, /s/ has been deleted from “Spider” and /n/ from “Ant.”	Up to 4 years
Epenthesis	<p>“Soup” is pronounced “Sthoap”</p> <p>“Play” is pronounced “Puhlay”</p>	Additions of sounds are added in words. In these examples /t/ and /h/ are added into the word “Soup, and “u” and /h/ are added into the word “Play.”	Up to 4 years
Metathesis	<p>“Animal” is pronounced “Aminal”</p> <p>“Butterfly” is pronounced “Flutterby”</p>	The order of the sound segments in a word is reversed. In these examples, the /n/ and /m/ in “Animal” are reversed and the /b/ and /f/ are reversed in “Butterfly.”	Up to 4 years
Gliding of liquids	<p>“Real” is pronounced as “Weal”</p> <p>“Leg” is pronounced as “Yeg”</p>	The liquid consonants /l/ and /r/ are replaced by /w/ or “y.” In these examples, /r/ in “Real” is replaced by /w/, and /l/ in “leg” is replaced by “y.”	Up to 5 years
Stopping	<p>“Funny” is pronounced as “Punny”</p> <p>“Jump” is pronounced as “Dump”</p>	A fricative consonant /f, v, s, z, h, / “th,” “zh,” “sh” or an affricate consonant “ch” or /j/ is replaced by a stop consonant /p, b, t, d, k, g/. In these examples, /f/ in “Funny” is replaced by /p/, and “j” in “Jump” is replaced by /d/.	Up to 3 – 5 years

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