

Articulation (Speech) Information: Frequently Asked Questions

What is an articulation disorder? Articulation is speech sound production; the 3 primary types are:

1. Omissions – child leaves out the sound completely
2. Substitutions – child replaces one sound for another
3. Distortions – child produces a close approximation or distorted version of the sound.

A child may present one or a combination of there in his/her speech production. The errors may occur in the beginning, middle, and/or end of words.

Should my child receive speech therapy? The learning of the correct production of speech sounds is a developmental process. Some sounds come in at an earlier age than others. Different children develop at different rates. When considering if a child should be placed in therapy, the following questions may be considered:

- Is the child exhibiting difficulty with sounds that are at his developmental level or are the errors the more difficult, later developing sounds?
- Can the child be understood by family and friends?
- Could the child attend and participate effectively in a therapy session?

What is the school district eligibility for speech therapy?

In the school district, we use the following sounds in words chart as a guide:

2 year olds	h, m, n
3 year olds	b, d, h, m, n
4 year olds	b, d, f, g, h, k, m, n, p, t, w
5 year olds	b, d, f, g, h, k, m, n, p, qu, t, w

Guidelines outlined by the school district/state of Florida specify the number of errors required at each age level to meet placement criteria for speech therapy. Later developing sounds include: l, r, s, th, v and blends (bl, br, gl, gr, pl, st, tr, etc.)