
"Children can have trouble saying sounds clearly. It may be hard to understand what they say. Speech-language pathologists, or SLPs, can help."

American Speech Language
Hearing Association

Huddle up

At Huddle Up, we bring our specialist providers, children, school staff, and families together with high quality care that supports the whole community.

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Speech Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Mental Health Counseling
Resources & Education



LET'S LEARN MORE ABOUT

**SPEECH SOUND
DISORDERS**

ABOUT SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

A speech sound disorder is when a person has difficulty correctly producing sounds while speaking. This makes it more difficult to understand the person's intended message when communicating with others.

It is normal for young children to have some difficulty producing speech sounds correctly, but by the time a child is around age 4 they should be able to produce almost all speech sounds correctly.

Depending on the specific difficulty, a speech sound disorder may also be referred to as an "articulation disorder" or "phonological disorder." A person may also have Apraxia of Speech which is caused by difficulty with the brain sending signals to speech muscles.



SUPPORT TIPS

People with speech sound disorders benefit from therapy with a licensed speech therapist to improve accuracy of speech production.

If you know someone with a speech sound disorder, the following activities can help encourage good speech production:

- List rhyming words
- Tell the first or last sound in a word.
- Say a word without the first sound (e.g., say "hat" without the "H" sound)
- Count how many sounds are in a word (e.g., the word "couch" has 3 sounds ("K," "ow," and "ch") but 5 letters)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Some sounds don't develop until a little bit later in a child's life, but most children can say almost all speech sounds correctly by age 4 and are understood by all listeners by age 4. Below are two early signs that your child might have a speech sound disorder:

- Not saying P, B, H, M, and W correctly most of the time by age 2.
- Not saying K, G, F, T, D and N correctly most of the time by age 3.

Saying sounds differently because of an accent or dialect is not the same as a speech sound disorder.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [American Speech Language Hearing Association](#)

FOR EXPERT HELP

www.huddleupcare.com