

Phonological Processes Chart: A Guide for Speech Development

This chart helps parents and educators understand common phonological processes—patterns of sound errors children use as they learn to speak—and when to expect them to resolve naturally. It also highlights when a speech-language pathology evaluation might be helpful.

PHONOLOGICAL PROCESS	WHAT IT IS	EXAMPLE (CHILD SAYS → ADULT WORD)	TYPICAL AGE OF SUPPRESSION	AGE TO CONSIDER EVALUATION
Reduplication	Repeating a syllable or part of a word.	wawa → water	By 2 years, 6 months	3 years, 0 months
Final Consonant Deletion	Omitting the last consonant sound in a word.	ca → cat	By 3 years, 0 months	3 years, 6 months
Weak Syllable Deletion	Omitting an unstressed syllable from a word.	nana → banana	By 3 years, 0 months	3 years, 6 months
Cluster Reduction	Reducing a consonant blend (like 'st' or 'bl') to a single consonant.	poon → spoon	By 4 years, 0 months (for many 2-consonant clusters)	5 years, 0 months
Stopping	Replacing a fricative (/f, s, v, z, sh/) or affricate (/ch, j/) with a stop sound (/p, b, t, d, k, g/).	tun → sun	By 3 years, 0 months (for /f, s/)	3 years, 6 months (for /f, s/)
Fronting	Replacing sounds made at the back of the mouth (/k, g/) with sounds made at the front (/t, d/).	tat → cat	By 3 years, 6 months	4 years, 0 months
Gliding	Replacing liquid sounds (/l, r/) with glide sounds (/w, y/).	wabbit → rabbit	By 5 years, 0 months	6 years, 0 months

7 rows