

Does your child say “top” instead of “stop” or “bock” instead of “block”? Maybe you notice that your child says “nana” instead of banana or “puter” instead of “computer”? Your child may be demonstrating **phonological processes**, which are **patterns that young children use to simplify adult speech**. Many children use these processes while their speech and language are **developing**.

Kammie Green: good idea to have a grabber

Kammie Green: could not be an issue

Below is a list of different types of **phonological processes**. They are broken down into the following three areas: syllable structure, substitution, and assimilation. If you hear these sound patterns beyond the age at which they should have resolved (listed below) we **recommend** reaching out for a **free phone consultation** or speech evaluation. Complete our **therapist match survey** and we’ll match your child with a speech pathologists that specializes in treating phonological processing disorders.

Kammie Green: sounds to be like the brochure idea

Syllable Structure: Sound changes that cause sounds or syllables to be reduced, omitted, or repeated

•**Cluster Reduction** is the deletion of one or more consonants from a two or three consonant cluster (e.g. “poon” for “spoon”, “tuck” for “truck”). Should resolve by the time a child is **4 without /S/ and by age 5 with /S/**.

Kammie Green: important to include examples

Kammie Green: be specific

•**Final Consonant Deletion** is the deletion of a final consonant sound in a word (e.g. “cuh” for “cup”, “dah” for “dog”). Expect this sounds pattern to resolve by the **age of 3**.

•**Initial Consonant Deletion** is the deletion of the initial consonant sound in a word (e.g. “up” for “cup”, “un” for “sun”). If your child is using this phonological process, we **recommend speech therapy regardless of their age** as this is an unusual pattern that typically indicates the presence of a significant phonological delay.

Kammie Green: more serious as they recommend regardless of age

•**Weak Syllable Deletion** is the deletion of a weak syllable in a word (e.g. “nana” for “banana”, “puter” for “computer”). This process resolves by the **age of 4**.

Substitution: Sound changes in which one sound class replaces another sound class

•**Backing** is the substitution of a sound produced in front of the mouth with a sound produced in the back of the mouth (e.g. “gog” for “dog”). If your child is backing his or her sounds, we **recommend speech therapy regardless of their age** as this pattern is typically seen in children that require speech and language intervention to resolve a significant phonological delay.

Kammie Green: again needs to be fixed regardless of age

•**Fronting** is the substitution of a sound produced in the back of the mouth with a sound produced in the front of the mouth (e.g. “tey” for “key”). This pattern resolves by **3.5 years of age**.

&•**Gliding** is the substitution of a glide (w, y) sound for a liquid (l, r) sound (e.g. “yike” for “like”, “wug” for “rug”). Gliding resolves by the **age of 6**.

Kammie Green: more difficult

•**Stopping** is the substitution of a stop (b, p, t, d, k, g) sound for a fricative (f, v, s, z, h, th, sh, zh) or affricate (ch, j) sound (e.g. “toap” for “soap”, “tair” for “chair”). Your child should no longer stop their sounds after the **age of 3 for /F/ & /S/, age 3.5 for /V/ & /Z/, age 4.5 for /CH/, /SH/ & /J/ and age 5 for /TH/**.

Kammie Green: very specific

•**Vowelization** is the substitution of a vowel sound for a liquid (l, r) sound (e.g. “bay-uh” for “bear”). Vowelization typically resolves by the **age of 6**.

•**Affrication** is the substitution of an affricate (ch, j) sound for a nonaffricate sound (e.g. “choe” for “shoe”). We should no longer hear this process after the **age of 3**.

•**Deaffrication** is the substitution of a nonaffricate sound for an affricate (ch, j) sound (e.g. “ship” for “chip”). Expect this process to be gone by the **age of 4**.

Kammie Green: opposite of deaffrication

•**Alveolarization** is the substitution of an alveolar sound for a nonalveolar sound (e.g. “tūm” for “thumb”). Alveolarization resolves by **age 5**.

•**Depalatalization** is the substitution of a **nonpalatal sound for a palatal** sound (e.g. “fit” for “fish”). This pattern should be gone by the **age of 5**.

Kammie Green: maybe describe these because one may not understand

•**Labialization** is the substitution of a labial sound for a nonlabial sound (e.g. “mouf” for “mouth”). Should resolve by **age 6**.

Assimilation: Sound changes in which one sound will start to sound like another, surrounding sound

•**Assimilation** is when a consonant sound starts to sound like another sound in the word (e.g. “bub” for “bus”). Children no longer use this process after the **age of 3**.

•**Denasalization** is when a nasal consonant like “m” or “n” changes to a nonnasal consonant like “b” or “d” (e.g. “dore” for “more”). No longer present after the **age of 2.5**.

Kammie Green: simpler

•**Final Consonant Devoicing** is when a voiced consonant (e.g. b, d) at the end of a word is substituted with a voiceless consonant (e.g. p, t) (e.g. “tup” for “tub”). Gone by **age 3**.

•**Prevocalic Voicing** is when a voiceless consonant (e.g. k, f) in the beginning of a word is substituted with a voiced consonant (e.g. g, v) (e.g. “gup” for “cup”). This pattern often sticks around until **age 6**.

•**Coalescence** is when two phonemes are substituted with a different phoneme that still has similar features (e.g. “foon” for “spoon”). Coalescence should resolve by the time a child is **6 years old**.

•**Reduplication** is when a complete or incomplete syllable is repeated (e.g. “baba” for “bottle”). No longer present by the **age of 3**.

Kammie Green: talking like a baby