



Early Years' Speech Screen

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- This screening tool is designed for use with Early Years children to support referrals made to the Speech and Language Therapy Service using our online referral form. It is NOT designed to be used as a comprehensive speech assessment.
- This screening tool looks at whether children are using 6 common speech patterns within their talking.
- Please ask the child to name each picture and use the descriptions on each page to determine whether the child is using each speech pattern. If the child uses the speech pattern in both words, or in just one of the words, please indicate that the child IS using the speech pattern.
- If the child is not able to name a picture, then you can say the word and ask them to repeat it after you.
- Please complete this screen in a 1:1 setting with the child. Sit together in a quiet environment so that you can hear the child's speech clearly. Look at the child's mouth as they say each word to help you work out what sounds they are using.
- If you have any questions about this screening tool, please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy team for advice.

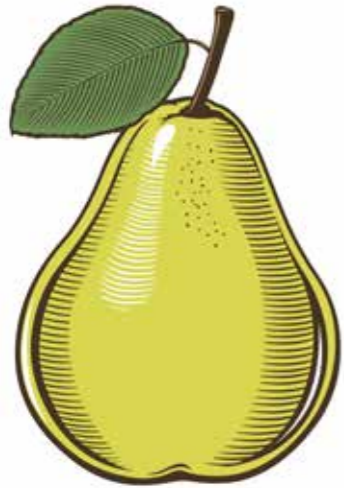
Speech pattern: Final consonant deletion



The child is presenting with final consonant deletion if they:

- miss off the 's' in the word bus
- miss off the 'p' in the word cup.

Speech pattern: Voicing



The child is presenting with voicing if they:

- replace the 'p' in pear with a 'b' (so it sounds like bear)
- replace the 't' in tie with a 'd' (so it sounds like dye).

Speech pattern: Consonant harmony



The child is presenting with consonant harmony if they:

- say the word 'park' as 'parp', 'barp' 'kark', or 'gark'
- say the word 'moon' as 'moom' or 'noon'.

Speech pattern: Stopping



The child is presenting with stopping if they:

- replace the 's' in sock with a 't' or 'd' (so it sounds like tock or dock)
- replace the 'f' in fish with a 'p' or 'b' (so it sounds like pish or bish).

Speech pattern: Fronting



The child is presenting with fronting if they:

- replace the 'c/k' in car with a 't' or 'd' (so it sounds like tar or dar)
- replace the 'g' in girl with a 'd' (so it sounds like dir).

Speech pattern: Weak syllable deletion



The child is presenting with weak syllable deletion if they:

- miss out a syllable from the word banana (so it sounds like nana)
- miss out a syllable from the word elephant (so it sounds like e-phant).

Record sheet

Date completed: _____

Photocopy this page to help you make notes as you complete the screening tool

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____

Speech pattern	Word	Child's production	Is child using speech pattern? (Y / N)*
Final consonant deletion	Bus		
	Cup		
Voicing	Pear		
	Tie		
Consonant harmony	Park		
	Moon		
Stopping	Sock		
	Fish		
Fronting	Car		
	Girl		
Weak syllable deletion	Banana		
	Elephant		

* If the child uses the speech pattern in both words, or in just one of the words, please indicate that the child IS using the speech pattern.

Referral guidelines

The table below summarises when typical speech patterns usually resolve.

Speech pattern	Definition	Resolves
Final consonant deletion	Missing off a consonant at the end of a word.	2 years
Voicing	Confusing 'noisy' and 'quiet' sounds.	3 years
Consonant harmony	Making a sound more similar to another sound in the word.	3 years
Stopping	Replacing a 'long' sound with a 'short' sound.	3 years, 5 months
Fronting	Replacing a 'back' sound with a 'front' sound.	4 years
Weak syllable deletion	Missing off a 'quieter' syllable in a word.	4 years

Please make a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Service if:

- a child is using 4 or more speech patterns beyond the age at which they are typically no longer seen (for example, a four-year-old who is presenting with voicing, stopping, fronting and consonant harmony)
- a child is using any speech pattern at least 18 months beyond the age at which it is typically no longer seen (for example, a three-and-a-half-year-old who is presenting with final consonant deletion).

Please note – the errors described above are ones that we see in typical speech sound development, however some children will be making other errors in their speech. If you are concerned about the child's speech and they are making errors not described above, please consider completing a referral and describing the errors that the child is making.