

Tips to help children with unclear speech...

- ★ Find out which sounds they swap and work out what they may have said.
- ★ Encourage them to talk more slowly by you yourself slowing down and pausing.
- ★ See if they can show you in another way e.g. acting it out, pointing, and taking you to it. Learning some signs or using gesture may help.
- ★ If you have understood, repeat back what they've said but provide the correct sounds. Don't make them say it correctly.
E.g. **Child:** "Look it's a gog!"
Adult: "Yes, it's a dog. It's a black dog."
- ★ It may be easier to understand them if you ask yes/no questions or offer a choice of words.
- ★ Don't pretend that you've understood. Ask questions about the things you think you've understood. If you are still unable to understand, try to find out the information from others e.g. family, friends.

Speech Sound Development



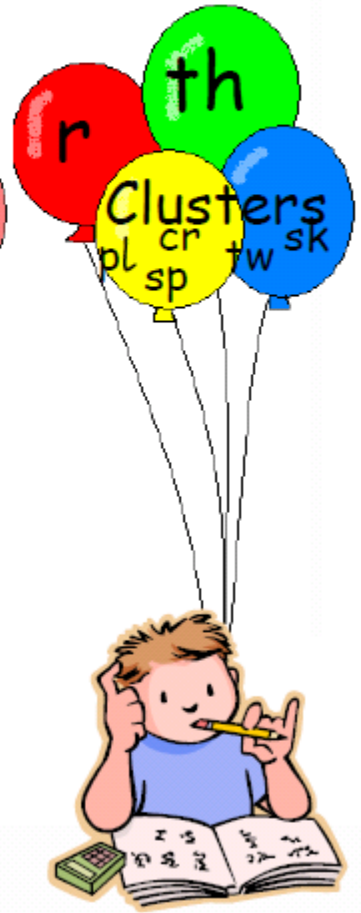
I can pronounce...

(Based on 90% acquisition from Dodd, Holm, Hua & Crosbie, 2003)

...by 3 - 3 ½ years



...by 3 ½ - 4 ½ years



...by 5+ years