



## What is an Articulation Disorder?

Most children make mistakes as they are learning to talk and learning to say new words. Learning speech sound production is a complex process that incorporates the planning, coordination and movement of speech sound articulators (including the jaw, lips, teeth, tongue, palate, cheeks and voice box). When correct articulation is used, it produces clear speech, which is called intelligible speech.

Articulation errors are a normal part of speech development. An articulation (or speech sound) disorder occurs when errors in production persist past a certain age. Each sound has an average age at which children should gain mastery of the production of that sound.

### How is an Articulation Disorder Diagnosed?

A speech language pathologist will listen to the child talk and will use a formal articulation assessment to promote production of speech sounds in different contexts. Based on the information gathered, the speech pathologist will determine whether the types of errors that are produced are appropriate for the child's age.

Note: Not all speech sound errors are indicative of an articulation disorder. They may be the result of a dialect or accent. For example, a person that lives in Boston that uses a more "flat" /r/ sound may be the result of their region and not of an articulation disorder.

### Types of Articulation Errors

1. Substitutions: replacing one sound with another sound. Examples: "wed" for "red"; "thun" for "sun"; "sot" for "sock"; "baf" for "bath"
2. Omission/Deletions: omitting a sound from a word. Examples: "p\_ay" for "play"; "\_top" for "stop"
3. Distortions: produce a sound in an unfamiliar manner. Examples: "cao" for "car"
4. Additions: insert an extra sound within a word. Examples: "buhblue" for "blue"; "doguh" for "dog"

### What Causes an Articulation Disorder?

Some possible causes of an articulation disorder are: oral motor deficits, developmental disorders, genetic syndromes, hearing loss, neurological disorders or frequent ear infections as an infant/toddler. In some cases, the cause for an articulation disorder is unknown.

### What Do Speech Pathologists Do When Treating an Articulation Disorder?

The speech pathologist will teach the child how to correctly use their articulators to produce the sounds that they are having difficulty with. The child will learn to recognize when speech sounds are correctly or incorrectly produced. They will also practice producing the sound correctly in a variety of words and complexity levels (single words, phrases, sentences, conversation) until they are using it well in their natural conversational speech.

## GOLDMAN-FRISTOE 2 NORMS

\*Age at which 90% of the children have acquired the sounds

AGE	INITIAL POSITION	MEDIAL POSITION	FINAL POSITION
2	b, d, m, n, p	b, m, n	m, p
3	f, g, k, t, w	f, g, k, ing, p, t	b, d, g, k, n, t
4	kw	d	f
5	ch, l, s, sh, j, bl	ch, l, s, sh, z	l, ing, ch, s, sh, r, v, z
6	r, v, br, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, kl, kr, pl, st, tr	r, v	
7	z, sl, sp, sw, unvoiced th	Voiced th	Unvoiced th
8		Unvoiced th	

Resources:

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/speechsounddisorders.htm>

[http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/201\\_TypesofArticulationErrors.pdf](http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/201_TypesofArticulationErrors.pdf)