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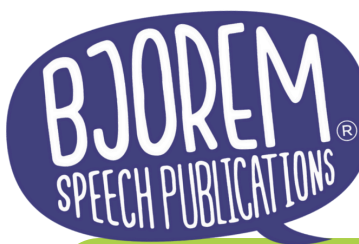
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Common Phonological Error Patterns Quick Reference





What is a phonological error pattern? Phonological pattern errors, also known as phonological processes, are systematic simplifications or substitutions of sounds in a child's speech. Most of these patterns are present in typically developing children's speech and help children simplify the complex adult speech they hear into manageable chunks. These errors, however, typically resolve as children develop.

Why they matter? When errors persist after a certain age, the productions are no longer considered typical development and may require explicit instruction to remediate. Recognizing these patterns aids in understanding and addressing children's speech development and subsequent interventions.



Substitution Errors

	Definition	Examples	Approximate Age of Elimination	Example Cue
Fronting	substitution of a sound made in the back of the mouth (e.g., velar) with a sound made in the front of the mouth (e.g., alveolar)	tea for key sew for show	~3.5 years	
Backing	substitution of a sound made in the front of the mouth (e.g., alveolar) with a sound made in the back of the mouth (e.g., velar)	cape for tape go for dough	---	
Stopping	substitution of a fricative or affricate with a stop	toe for sew two for shoe	/f, s/ - 3 years /z, v/ - 4 years /ʃ, tʃ, dʒ, θ, ð/ - 5 years	
Gliding	substitution of a non-glide sound with a glide; the most common form is liquid gliding in which a liquid (/ɹ/, /l/) is replaced with a glide (/w/, /j/)	woe for row wane for lane	6 years	

Syllable Structure Errors

Cluster Reduction	deletion of one or more consonants in a cluster; typically the marked consonant is deleted	pill for spill	with /s/ - 5 years without /s/ - 4 years	
Final Consonant Deletion	deletion of a consonant at the end of a word or syllable; all final consonants may be deleted or only select sound classes	ca for cat	3 years	
Initial Consonant Deletion	deletion of a consonant at the beginning of a word or syllable; all initial consonants may be deleted or only select sound classes	og for dog	---	
Weak Syllable Deletion	deletion of an unstressed syllable in multisyllabic words	tephone for telephone	4 years	

Assimilation Errors

Prevocalic Voicing	voicing of a voiceless sound that proceeds a vowel	bat for pat	6 years	
Postvocalic Devoicing	devoicing a sound that is typically voiced following a vowel	back for bag	3 years	

Need help treating these common speech sound errors? We've got you covered!



Bowen, C. (2011). Table 3: Elimination of Phonological Processes.
 McLeod, S., & Baker, E. (2017). Types of SSD in Children. In Children's Speech: An Evidence-Based Approach to Assessment and Intervention.
 Peña-Brooks, A., & Hegde, M. N. (2015). Assessment and Treatment of Speech Sound Disorders in Children: A Dual-Level Text. Austin, TX: PRO-ED.

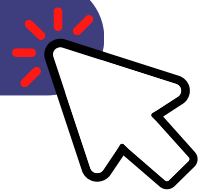
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Click [here](#) to grab our comprehensive phonological processes chart!

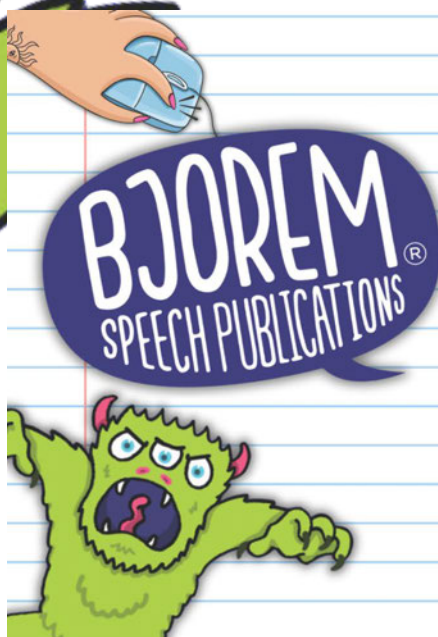
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