

**Understanding the process of speech**

## Speech

Speech is the ability to produce verbal sounds with a clear voice.

**Articulation** – this is how speech sounds are formed.  
The mouth, lips and tongue are used to form speech sounds.  
Speech sounds develop in a specific developmental order.

Age	Sounds
0 – 6 months	Cooing sounds e.g., 'oo', 'ee' 'ah'
6 – 12 months	Baby begins to babble and repeats consonant sounds e.g., 'mamamama' dadadada'
9 – 18 months	m n p b t d w
18 months to 3 years	k g ng 'as in 'ring, wing'
3 – 4 years	f s h
4 - 5 years	l v z sh ch j y
5+ years	r th

**Phonology** - how sounds are organised and used in speech.  
This requires the ability to identify and use individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words and then be able to sequence the phonemes to form a word.

**Voice** - this uses the vocal cords and breathing to produce sound.  
By using intonation and stressing certain words the meaning of the spoken word can be changed.

**Fluency** – this means speaking easily, reasonable quickly and without having to stop and pause.  
Difficulties can arise with a lack of fluency i.e., stuttering.

**Useful References and Links**

[Speech, Language and Communication Needs \(SLCN\) | CYPInfo \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/cypsinfo/)

[Speech, Language and Communication Needs \(SLCN\) \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/slc/)