



# DCDSB Understanding & Supporting All Learners

## What is Articulation?

Articulation (also called “speech”) is the way we make vowel and consonant sounds and sound combinations with our mouth (e.g., lips, tongue, jaw). These sounds are needed in order to speak our language. If a child is having trouble making specific sounds or sound combinations, they may be hard to understand when they are speaking with you and their peers.

As a parent, you may understand what your child is saying to you, however others who are less familiar with their specific speech patterns may ask them to repeat or you may have to interpret what they’re saying for others’.

## Speech Development

Children learn to produce different speech sounds at different ages. This chart summarizes when most children can produce a certain sound. Note that later developing sounds may include; “th”, “r” and these types of sound errors may be considered age-appropriate sound errors.

By 3	By 3½	By 4	By 4½	By 5	By 6	By 7	By 8
m h w p b n k g d t	y f	zh* j v	j v	s ch sh	l r z th ng	all blends should be produced correctly	all sounds should be produced correctly

75% criterion: Smit et al. (1990). The Iowa Articulation Norms Project and its Nebraska Replication.  
\*75% criterion: Art & Goodban (1976); Chirlian & Sharpley (1982); Prather et al. (1975)

## Home Strategies to support those with Articulation Difficulties

Here are a few things parents/guardians can do to support your child with this difficulty

- **Model** the correct sound/word. Repeat what your child says using correct sounds
- **DO NOT** ask your child to repeat the word back to you correctly (this can be discouraging)
- **Stress** the sound so your child hears the correct model of the word. Stress by either prolonging or exaggerating the sound
- **Reinforce** self-corrections by drawing positive attention to and making comments when your child does self-correct on their own
- If you are unable to understand what the child is saying, ask them to say it another way or have them show you what they are talking about. Avoid more than two repetitions.

Some optional resources:

- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com)
- <https://www.home-speech-home.com/articulation-games.html>
- <http://www.speechtree.ca/>
- articulation station app

*This resource is not intended for diagnostic purposes. It is to be used as a reference for your own understanding and to provide information about the different kinds of difficulties you may encounter in your classroom.*

