



Phonological Pattern Suppression by Age

Children with normally developing articulation seem to suppress certain phonological processes within approximate time frames. The approximate age of suppression is helpful when determining normal versus disordered phonological systems and can be used as a guideline when determining treatment goals. This chart summarizes the ages by which at least 75% of children no longer use a given process.

| Individual Process | Description | Example | Likely Age of Disappearance |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Denasalization | changing a nasal consonant to a nonnasal | mat → /bæt/ | 2.6 |
| Assimilation | changing a phoneme so it takes on a characteristic of another sound in the word | cat → /tæt/ | 3 |
| Affrication | substituting an affricate for a nonaffricate | sheep → /tʃip/ | 3 |
| Final consonant deletion | omitting a singleton consonant at the end of a word | cat → /kæ/ | 3 |
| Fronting of initial velar singles | substituting a front sound for a back sound | can → /tæn/ | 4 |
| Deaffrication | replacing an affricate with a continuant or stop | chip → /sɪp/ | 4 |
| Cluster reduction (without /s/) | omitting one or more consonants in a sequence of consonants | grape → /gep/ | 4 |
| Depalatalization of final singles | substituting a nonpalatal for a palatal sound at the end of a word | dish → /dɪt/ | 4.6 |
| Depalatalization of initial singles | substituting a nonpalatal for a palatal sound at the beginning of a word | shy → /taɪ/ | 5 |
| Alveolarization | substituting an alveolar for a nonalveolar sound | chew → /tu/ | 5 |
| Final consonant devoicing | substituting a voiceless final consonant for a voiced consonant | bag → /bæk/ | 5 |
| Cluster reduction (with /s/) | omitting /s/ in the initial position of a cluster | step → /tɛp/ | 5 |
| Labialization | replacing a nonlabial sound with a labial sound | tan → /pæn/ | 6 |
| Initial voicing | substituting a voiced consonant for a voiceless consonant before a vowel | sun → /zʌn/ | 6 |
| Gliding of initial liquids | substituting a /w/ or /j/ for another consonant | run → /wʌn/ | 7 |
| Epenthesis | adding a sound, typically /ʌ/, between two consonants | black → /bʌlæk/ | 8 |

Peña-Brooks, A., & Hedge, M.N. (2007). *Assessment and treatment of articulation and phonological disorders in children*. Austin, TX: PRO-ED.

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