



Speech Sound Decision Making Guide

This is to be used as a *guideline* in determining the direction to take (i.e., home program or immediate referral)

3-Year-Olds

<p>If Not Stimulable, Errors Indicating Referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deletion of early developing sounds (p,b,m,n,d,t,f,h,w,j(y)) ▪ (“water” → “wa-wa”) ▪ Final Consonant Deletion (“boat” → “boa_”) ▪ Initial Consonant Deletion (“sun” → “_un”) ▪ Stopping (“sun” → “tun”) ▪ Glottal Replacement/Backing (“cow” → “how”) ▪ Lateral Distortion of Sibilants (always considered atypical) 	<p>Developmental Errors ** Indicating Home Program/Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unstressed syllable reduction (“telephone” → “tel-phone”) ▪ Cluster Reduction (“spoon” → “_poon”) ▪ Fronting of velars (“go” → “do”) or palatals (“shoe” → “sue”) ▪ Prevocalic Voicing (“peach” → beach”) ▪ Gliding of Liquids (“love” → “wove” or “rock” → “wock”) ▪ Vowel R Distortions (“bird” → “boyd”) ▪ Dental Simplifications (“with” → “wif” or “thumb” → “dum”) ▪ Deaffrication (“cheese” → “sheese” or “jump” → “zhump”) ▪ Frontal Distortion of Sibilants (frontal lisp)
--	--

4 to 6 Year-Olds

<p>If Not Stimulable, Errors Indicating Referral</p> <p><i>Any error pattern noted above plus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Syllable Reduction (“basket” → “bæ-”) ▪ Any consonant deletion (“daddy” → “da_ _y”) ▪ Fronting of Velars and Palatals (“go” → “do”/ “shoe” → “sue”) ▪ Cluster Reduction (“spoon” → “_poon”) ▪ Vowel Distortions (“dæd” → “dad”) ▪ Lateral Distortion of Sibilants 	<p>Developmental Errors ** Indicating Home Program/Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gliding of Liquids (“love” → “wove” or “rock” → “wock”) ▪ Vowel R Distortions (“bird” → “boyd”) ▪ Dental Simplifications (“with” → “wif” or “thumb” → “dum”) ▪ Frontal Distortion of Sibilants (frontal lisp)
--	---

7 Year-Olds

<p>If Not Stimulable, Errors Indicating Referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any error existing at the end of first grade 	<p>Developmental Errors ** Indicating Home Program/Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If errors are stimulable, may try home programming prior to a referral
--	---

**These errors may be developmental. However, multiple samples may be needed to determine if maturation will result in spontaneous normalization of these sounds.