



## **When is a preschooler's speech not cute anymore?**

The following reference charts show the age at which boys and girls typically develop speech sounds. There are slight variations in the timing of speech sound development between boys and girls.

In preschool perfection is not the expectation. However, by the age of three, a child should be understood by unfamiliar listeners at least 80% of the time.

It should also be noted that while several consonant sequences (also referred to as “blends” or “consonant blends”) are listed under the seven year old grouping for acquisition it is denoting an adult production of the “s” in the blend (e.g., st in star, sm in smile, sp in spoon). In preschool if a child drops one of the consonant sounds in the sequence an age-appropriate substitution is taught as needed in order to increase the overall intelligibility.