Spanish Speech Sound Development

Speech sounds should be developed by the following ages. Speech development may be delayed if milestones are not met. There is a range for speech sound development and these sounds may be developed earlier than the age indicated.



AGE 3;3–3;11 | **AGE 4;3–4;11** | **AGE 5;0-5;7** | **AFTER 5;7**

Word-Final Consonants

Only five consonants occur in word-final position: /l, r, d, n, s/.

Dialectal Variation

Dialectal variations exist in Spanish phonology; it is important to recognize this when assessing a Spanish speaker

Not Shared with English

Some of these sounds, including: /ŋ, v, ð, θ, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, ʤ, ɹ/. may be present in certain dialects or in the speech patterns of bilingual speakers.

Ages based on 90% accuracy of phoneme production, normed on 120 Spanish-speaking children of Mexican descent in California (Jiménez, 1987). R and RR are two different sounds. R is a quick tap, as in pero. RR is the rolled sound, as in perro.

Bedore, L. (1999). The acquisition of Spanish. In O. Taylor & L. Leonard (Eds.), Language acquisition across North America (pp. 157–207). San Diego, CA: Singular. · Jiménez, B. C. (1987). Acquisition of Spanish consonants in children aged 3–5 years, 7 months. Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools, 18, 357–363.

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