

Emergence of Consonants in Young Children with Hearing Loss

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Who is included in this study:

- children with hearing loss between 15 and 84 months of age without disabilities impacting speech/language development
- mild, moderate, severe, and profound degrees of bilateral hearing loss, including those with cochlear implants

Where the data came from:

- speech samples from the LIPP transcription were used
- LIPP is completed on the 25-minute parent-child video interaction in the FAMILY assessment & the 4 to 7 project
- 885 video samples were used

What is shown in the tables:

- The age at which 50% to 80% of the children produced each of the consonants of English two times during the language sample is reported

What to notice about the tables:

- Overall, children in all of the hearing loss groups produced most English consonants by 84 months of age
- The data suggest that children with hearing loss develop phonemes in a similar pattern to children with typical hearing, although the rate of development is delayed for later developing consonants, and the delay increases with degree of hearing loss

How to use these tables with home intervention families:

- help parents and interventionists understand the typical timelines for speech development in children with hearing loss
- if a child is not progressing towards these production targets, it may be indicative of other factors outside of the degree of hearing loss that may be affecting development
- consider appropriateness of amplification and discuss specific sound concerns with the managing audiologist so that frequencies can be assessed during mapping or hearing aid programming appointment
- the hearing loss may have progressed
- additional disabilities may be influencing development
- interventionist may want to adjust their therapy strategies or discuss different techniques that the parents can use in the home to provide a more stimulating environment for speech development
- counsel families on what to expect during preschool years if it looks like a child may not qualify for speech services

Important:

- *Remember, this data was collected and reported in a different way than the Sanders (1972) article that we commonly reference. These charts should not be put side by side and used together.*
- *Be sure to read the table description to understand how to interpret the bars.*