

Phonological Processes Chart

Ages of elimination, ASHA and Bowen side by side

PROCESS	EXAMPLE	ASHA: LIKELY AGE OF ELIMINATION (YEARS)	BOWEN: GONE BY ABOUT
SYLLABLE STRUCTURE			
Final consonant deletion	“bu” for bus, “coe” for comb	3	3;3
Weak syllable deletion	“nana” for banana, “tato” for potato	4	4;0
Cluster reduction	“top” for stop, “keen” for clean	with S: 5 without S: 4	4;0
SUBSTITUTION			
Fronting	“tar” for car, “date” for gate	4	3;6
Stopping	“tea” for see, “pun” for fun, “dump” for jump	F, S: 3 Z, V: 4 SH, CH, J, voiced TH: 5	F, S: 3;0 V, Z: 3;6 SH, J, CH: 4;6 TH: 5;0
Gliding	“wabbit” for rabbit, “yeyo” for yellow	6 to 7	5;0
Deaffrication	“ship” for chip	4	not listed
ASSIMILATION			
Velar assimilation	“kack” for tack, “guck” for duck	3	3;9 (consonant harmony)
Nasal assimilation	“money” for funny, “nunny” for bunny	3	3;9 (consonant harmony)
VOICING (BOWEN’S TABLE ONLY)			
Prevocalic voicing	“big” for pig	not listed	3;0
Word-final devoicing	“pick” for pig	not listed	3;0

3;6 means 3 years and 6 months. These are typical ages, not deadlines: a child past both ages who still uses a pattern is worth a speech-language pathologist’s look. A pattern that is part of a child’s dialect or home language is not an error.

Sources: ASHA, Selected Phonological Patterns (asha.org). Caroline Bowen, Table 3: Elimination of Phonological Processes, after Grunwell (speech-language-therapy.com).

Practice With Picture Pairs

Scan a code with your phone camera

A pattern is taught with picture pairs: two words that differ by one sound, like “tea” and “see.” When your child says the word, you point to the picture they said, so a clear sound picks the right picture.



Final Consonant Deletion Pairs Pack

Picture word pairs for final P, T, K, M, N and D. \$4.



Stopping Pairs Pack

Picture word pairs for S, F, SH, CH, V and J. \$4.



Fronting Pairs Pack

Picture word pairs for K and G, start and end of words. \$4.



This Chart Online

The full guide, the list with examples, and when to ask a speech-language pathologist.