

PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES



Phonological processes are patterns of speech sound errors that most children make while they are learning to speak. These errors tend to fade away or be eliminated as children grow and develop. If a process persists past a certain age or a child exhibits many patterns of speech sound errors, the child may have developed a phonological processes disorder. The chart gives information for some of the more common phonological process errors seen in school-age children but please note that not all phonological processes are listed below.

PHONOLOGICAL PROCESS	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
fronting	when a sound made in the back of the mouth is substituted with a sound made in the front of the mouth	"tup" for "cup" "dough" for "go"
backing	when a sound made in the front of the mouth is substituted with a sound made in the back of the mouth	"gog" for "dog" "cub" for "tub"
gliding	when an /L/ or and /R/ sound is substituted with a /W/ or a /Y/ sound	"wed" for "red" "way" for "lay" "yeyo" for "yellow"
stopping	when a sound made with air is substituted with a sound that is "stopped"	"pan" for "fan" "dock" for "sock" "dump" for "jump"
final consonant deletion	when the final sound in a word is omitted	"pie" for "pipe" "no" for "nose"
prevocalic voicing	when a voiceless sound is substituted with a voiced sound in the beginning of a word	"gat" for "cat" "ban" for "pan"
cluster reduction	when a consonant cluster is reduced from two sounds to one	"pate" for "plate" "top" for "stop"