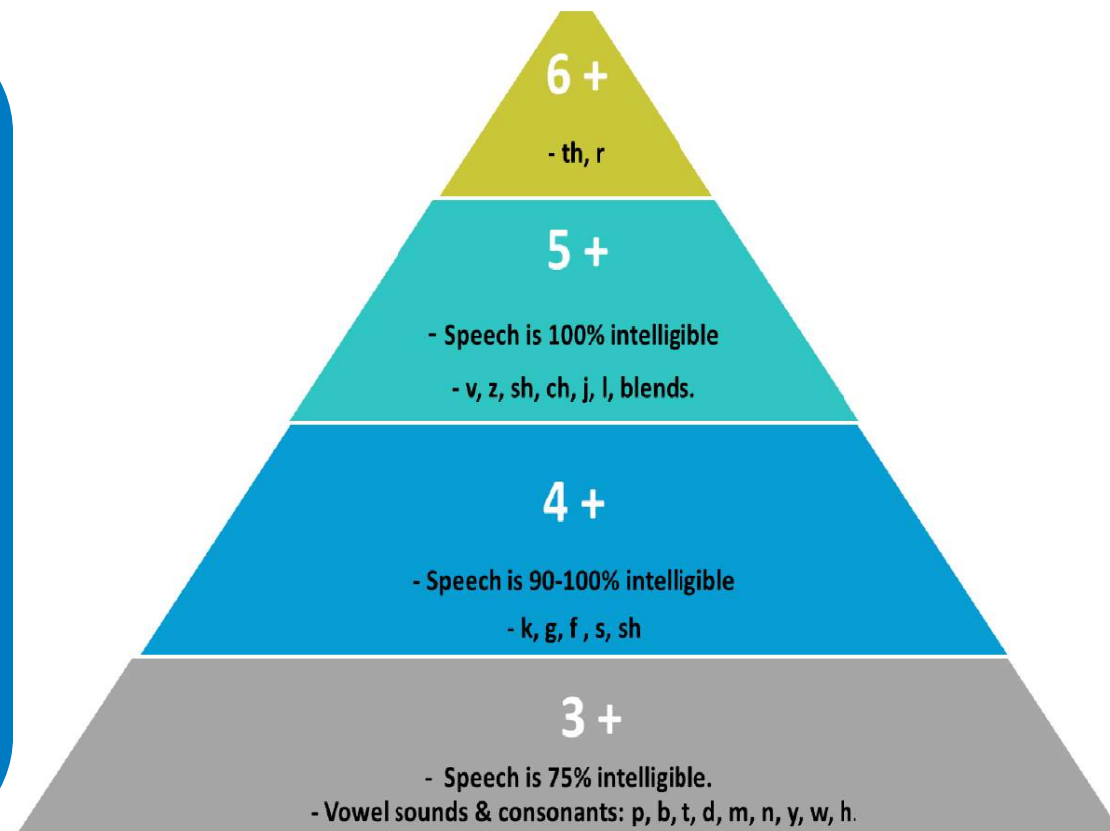


Speech sound development

Before children can use sounds in words they need to be able to produce them in isolation. Sometimes children do not master the sounds we would expect by a particular age and as a result their speech can be unclear and difficult to understand.

Causes of speech sound difficulties

- Glue ear and hearing loss.
- Physical reasons e.g. cleft palate.
- Speech difficulties associated with other conditions e.g. Downs Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.
- Some speech sound difficulties may occur without a known cause, or they may be associated with a language disorder.



Typical speech sound development

More information

As children learn to talk they often simplify their speech sounds in words and make a range of errors. If these errors do not resolve by a certain age children are said to have a speech sound delay.

Substitution	Definition	Example	Typically gone:
Final consonant deletion	When the final sound of a word is missed off.	[ca] cat [do] dog	3 years
Assimilation	When a sound is replaced by another sound also used in the word.	[bub] bus [gog] dog	3 years
Weak syllable deletion	A syllable (part) of a word is deleted.	[nana] banana	3 years
Stopping	When a long sound is made short, for example, s – d or f – b.	[dun] sun [bish] fish	3 ½ years
Fronting	When a sound is made further forward in the mouth than it should be; for example k – t or g – d.	[tat] cat [dir] girl	4 years
Cluster reduction	When two or more sounds are reduced to one.	[bider] spider [no] snow	5 years

Some children will make errors which are not part of typical development e.g. missing the start of words [og] for 'dog', vowel errors [bad] for 'bed' and backing of sounds [key] for 'tea'. When these errors are identified children are said to have a speech sound disorder.

TOP TIPS

- If the child is using a dummy try to wean them off it.
- If you don't understand what they have said ask them to show you or point to it.
- Reduce background noise.
- Don't make your child repeat words but instead model back accurate production e.g. if they say 'look at the tar' say 'yes it's a car'.
- Build confidence by praising clear speech.
- If you have concerns please contact us for a request for help discussion.

Contact us:
01752 434844
www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk