



Seaside SaLT
Speech and language therapy

Speech Sound Disorder

Typical speech sound development is how children naturally learn to say sounds and words as they grow. This happens gradually, with some sounds appearing earlier and others later.

What is a Speech Sound Disorder?

A speech sound disorder is when a child has difficulty producing speech sounds in a way that is not typical for their age, making their speech hard to understand.

Key points:

- Speech development is NOT following a normal pattern
- Some speech mistakes are part of normal development—but unusual (atypical) errors are ones we wouldn't expect at any age.
- sounds are replaced with unusual sounds
- Speech is difficult to understand
- Example "gog" for "dog" or "fis" for "fish"
- Random sound substitutions - when a child replaces sounds in words in a way that seems unpredictable or inconsistent.

When to seek advice:

Consider speaking to a Speech and Language Therapist if your child:

- Is difficult to understand for their age
- Is not making progress with speech sounds over time
- Becomes frustrated when trying to be understood