

Phonological process	Description	Example	Approximate age of elimination
Cluster reduction	When a consonant cluster is produced with only one consonant	“truck” → “tuck” “slide” → “side” “brown” → “bown”	~4 years; Including /s/, gone by 5 years
Final consonant deletion	When the last consonant of a word is omitted	“dog” → “daw”	~3 years
Initial consonant deletion	When the first consonant of a word is omitted	“dog” → “awg”	Never typical; seen in more severe phonological disorders
Weak syllable deletion	When the first unstressed syllable of a word is omitted	“banana” → “nana”	~4 years
Epenthesis	When a sound is added between two consonants, often “uh”	“plane” → “puh-lane”	~8 years
Backing	When alveolar sounds /t/ or /d/ are substituted with /k/ or /g/	“bus” → “buhk” “lid” → “lig”	Never typical; seen in more severe phonological disorders
Fronting	When velar sounds /k/ or /g/ are substituted with alveolar sounds /t/ or /d/	“bag” → “bad” “lake” → “late”	~3.5 years
Affrication	When a non-affricate is substituted with an affricate, “ch” or “j”	“doggie” → “joggie”	~3 years
Deaffrication	When an affricate “ch” or “j” is substituted with a fricative or stop, like “sh” or /d/	“choo-choo” → “shoo shoo” “chip” → “dip”	~4 years
Alveolarization	When a non-alveolar sound is substituted with an alveolar sound	“shoe” → “tu” “make” → “nake”	~5 years
Depalatalization	When a palatal sound is substituted with a non-palatal sound	“dish” → “dit”	~5 years
Labialization	When a non-labial sound is substituted with a labial sound, /m/, /p/, or /b/.	“toad” → “poad” “nail” → “mail”	~6 years
Gliding	When /l/ or /r/ becomes a /w/ or /y/ sound	“yellow” → “yewo” or “yeyo” “rock” → “wock”	~6 years
Stopping	When a fricative or affricate is	“foot” → “put”	/f, v, s, z/ by 3

	replaced with a stop	“jump” → “dump”	years “ch” “sh” “th” “j” by 5 years
Vowelization	When /l/ or “er” sounds are replaced with a vowel	“apple” → “appo” “color” → “colluh”	--
Assimilation	When a consonant is substituted with another consonant within the word	“ladder” → “dadder” “bub” → “bus”	~3 years
Denasalization	When a nasal consonant like /n/ or /m/ is substituted with a non-nasal sound like /d/ or /b/	“monkey” → “bunkey” “nose” → “dose”	~2.5 years
Final Consonant Devoicing	When a voiced consonant at the end of the word, like /d/ is produced as its unvoiced counterpart, like /t/	“bug” → “buck” “road” → “wrote”	~3 years
Prevocalic Voicing	When an unvoiced consonant at the beginning of the word, like /f/, is produced as its voiced counterpart, like /v/	“fish” → “vish” “sip” → “zip”	~6 years
Coalescence	When two phonemes are substituted with a consonant that has similar features	“spoon” → “foon”	--
Reduplication	When a sound or incomplete syllable is repeated	“bottle” → “baba”	~3 years