

Why do Articulation Errors Occur?

- ❑ Child Development: Children learn to produce different sounds at different ages. They learn to say the easiest sounds first and the hardest sounds develop over time.
- ❑ Muscular: Poor muscle strength, range of movement, and/or coordination. This disorder is referred to as developmental dysarthria.
- ❑ Structural: A child may have a tongue-tie, cleft palate, or an overbite.
- ❑ Sequencing Muscle Movements: This refers to the brain's ability to communicate with the speech muscles to achieve coordinated muscle movement during sequencing of speech sounds. This disorder is referred to as developmental apraxia/dyspraxia.
- ❑ Phonology: A child does not follow the standard rules regarding sound production and makes up his own (e.g., child's rule: every time a word has an f sound, I will make a p sound).
- ❑ Hearing: A history of ear infections (i.e., fluid in the middle ear) affects how sounds are heard and as a result, how sounds are learned and produced.
- ❑ Genetic: There may be a family history of articulation difficulties.
- ❑ No known reason. Sometimes, it just happens.

Reference: "Why do Articulation Errors Occur?" – no source.