

Spanish Phoneme – Developmental Chart

<u>Age of Acquisition</u>	<u>Phoneme</u>
3	/n/, /m/, /w/
4	/t/, /k/, /p/, /h/, /j/
4 ½	/b/
5	/d/, /g/
5 ½	/tʃ/, /g/
6	/s/, /ɲ/
6 ½	/t/, /f/
7+	rr, blends

All vowels develop by age 4 except / ε / which develops by age 6.

Stops develop before fricatives and affricates.

Affricates develop before fricatives.

**ARTICULATION DIFFERENCES COMMONLY OBSERVED
AMONG SPANISH SPEAKERS**

Articulation Characteristics	Sample English Patterns
1. t,d,n may be dentalized (tip of tongue is placed against the back of the upper central incisors)	
2. Final consonants are often devoiced	dose / doze
3. b/v substitution	Berry / very
4. Deaspirated stops 9sounds like speaker is omitting the sound because it is said with little air release)	
5. ch/sh substitution	Chirley / Shirley
6. sh/ch substitution	wish / witch
7. ch/j substitution	garache / garage, char / jar
8. d/voiced th or a/voiced th (voiced “th” does not exist in Spanish)	dis / this, zat / that
9. s/z substitution	price / prize
10.ngg/ng substitution	bringg / bring
11.t/voiceless th or s/voiceless th (voiceless “th des not exist in Spanish)	tink / think or mouse / mouth
12.Schwa sound inserted before word initial consonant clusters involving sibilants	esakte / skate, espend / spend
13.Words can end in 10 different sounds: [a], [e], [l], [o], [u], [l], [r], [n], [s], [d]	may omit sounds at the ends of words
14.When words start with h, the h is silent.	old / hold, it / bit
15.r is tapped or trilled (tap r might sound like the tap in the English word “butter”)	
16.There is no j (e.g., judge) sound in Spanish; speakers may substitute “y”	Yulie / Julie, yoke / joke
17.Spanish s is produced in a more frontal position than English s	
18.The ñ is pronounced like “ny” (e.g., “baño” is pronounced “bahnyo”)	
19.Spanish has 5 vowels: a, e, i, o, u [ɔ, e, l, o, u] and a few diphthongs. Thus, Spanish speakers may produce the following vowel substitutions: ee/i substitution [i/l] peeg/pig, leetle/little e/a, ah/a substitutions [ɛ /æ, ɔ / æ] pet/pat, Stahn/Stan	

Adapted from: Roseberry-McKibbin, Langdon and LA City Unified