Learning English Consonants (Across the World)

6 years

th (voiceless)

5 years

th (voiced), zh, r

4 years

v, s, z, sh, ch, j, l

3 years

b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ng, f, h, y, w

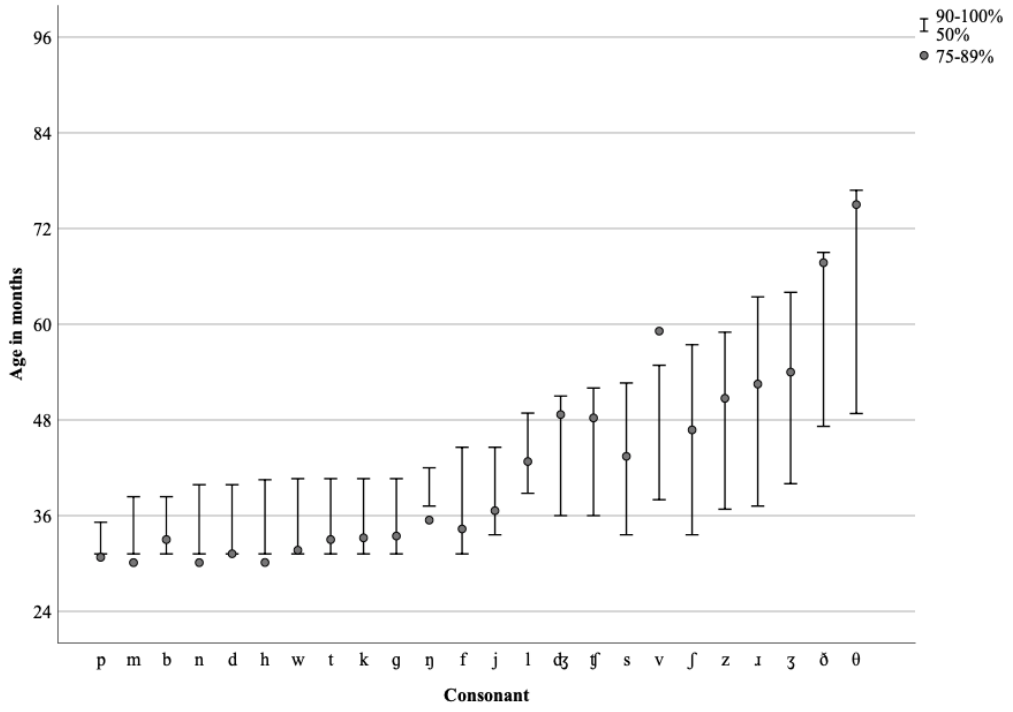**Average age of acquisition of English consonants across the world (90–100% criteria)**

The review was based on 15 studies of 7,369 children speaking English in Australia, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States (McLeod & Crowe, 2018).

This information should be used alongside other information about children's speech acquisition; for example, typically
developing 4- to 5-year-old children are usually intelligible, even to strangers (McLeod, Crowe, & Shahaeian, 2015).

McLeod, S., & Crowe, K. (2018). Children's consonant acquisition in 27 languages: A cross-linguistic review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 27,* 1546–1571. doi:10.1044/2018_AJSLP-17-0100

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Figure legend:
- 90–100%
- 50%
- 75–89%

Y-axis: Age in months (24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96)

X-axis (Consonant): p m b n d h w t k g ŋ f j l dʒ tʃ s v ʃ z ɹ ʒ ð θ

Average age of acquisition of English consonants across the world (50%, 75–85%, 90–100% criteria)

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