

Difference between Articulation and Phonological Disorders

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008) provides the following definitions:

Articulation disorder—problems producing specific age-expected speech sounds. Sounds can be distorted, deleted, or added (e.g., *yes* may be pronounced *yeth* if the child has problems articulating the sound /s/). The underlying cause of an articulation disorder is in the motor movements required for accurate sound production, but those difficulties may be functional (intact mechanism, no neurological damage) or organic (mechanism challenged in some way and/or neurological damage).

Phonological process disorder—patterns of error of sound use in a child’s speech and language repertoire. The underlying difficulty relates to the rules of language that govern the sound system. Variant rules may be seen in a limited number of sounds in the child’s inventory, problems with sound combinations and syllable shapes, and/or difficulties in pronouncing linguistic markers such as plural and past tense markers.

Examples of possible patterns of error a child with phonological process disorder may display:

Weak Syllable Deletion	<i>puter for computer</i>
Final Consonant Deletion	<i>daw for dog</i>
Reduplication	<i>buhbuh for bubbles</i>
Cluster Reduction	<i>top for stop</i>
Stopping	<i>tee for three</i> <i>do for zoo</i> <i>two for shoe</i>
Fronting	<i>tat for cat</i>
Gliding	<i>wing for ring</i>
Backing	<i>hop for top</i>