



French Children's Speech Development

FRENCH (France)

Multilingual Children's Speech Development

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Source: Almeida, L. & dos Santos, C. (forthcoming). French (France) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.



French (France)

- **Commonly spoken in**
 - France and Monaco
- **Dialects and variants**
 - Parisian French (Reference French or Standard French)
 - Meridional French (Southern France) (among others)
- **Writing**
 - Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script).
 - Language uses diacritics to indicate different sounds: <´>, <`>, <^>, <¨>, <ç>
 - Example: <ê> in *bêler* [bɛle] ‘to bleat’

French (France)

Speech Components

- **Consonants (17):** /p, t, k, b, d, g, m, n, ŋ, f, s, ʃ, v, z, ʒ, ʁ, l/
- **Consonant clusters (many):** tautosyllabic clusters /pʁ, bʁ, tʁ, dʁ, kʁ, gʁ, fʁ, vʁ, pl, bl, kl, gl, fl, vl, pn, gn/ and /s/+C(C);
- **Vowels (11+3):** /i, y, u, e, ø, o, ε, œ, ɔ, a/ and /ẽ, õ, ã/
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** $C_{(0-3)}V_{(1)}C_{(0-4)}$
 - CV is the most common syllable structure
- **Prosody:** French has a fixed stressed on the last syllable of a prosodic group of words

French (France)

Age of Acquisition

■ Consonants

- Between 2;5 and 4;0: All French consonants in singleton onsets; /l, ʁ/ are late-acquired consonants

■ Consonant clusters

- Acquired after singleton consonants;
- Obstruent+Liquid clusters acquired earlier in word-initial position (Demuth & Kehoe, 2006)

■ Vowels

- Acquired before consonants (Watts & Rose, 2020)

■ Tones

- Not applicable

French (France) Speech Development

- **Percentage correct**
 - No study reporting percentage of phonemes correct based on a large database of recorded French-speaking children
- **Intelligibility**
 - Utterance intelligibility improved with increasing MLU
 - Intelligibility of typically developing children improved substantially between the ages of 2 and 3 years (Maillart and Parisse, 2006)
- **Common phonological patterns**
 - Reduplication, truncation, phoneme deletion, phoneme insertion, phoneme substitution, phoneme assimilation, vowel and consonant harmony and metathesis

French (France) Children with Speech Sound Disorders

■ Also called

- Trouble des sons de la parole → Speech Sound Disorder
- Trouble du Développement du Langage → Developmental Language Disorder

■ Research has focused on

- Assessment and description of the phonology of children with SSD

■ Studies (examples)

- Comparison of the phonology of TD children and children with DLD (Maillart & Parisse, 2006)
- Description of the impaired phonology in children with DLD (Ferré et al., 2012)

French (France) Speech Assessments

- **Batterie d'évaluation du langage de l'enfant (EVALO 2-6)**
[Assessment battery of child's language] (Coquet et al, 2009)
- **EVALuation du Langage Ecrit et du Langage Oral (EVALEO 6-15)**
[Assessment of written and oral language] (Maeder et al., 2017)
- **Evaluation du Langage Oral (ELO)**
[Assessment of oral language] (Khomsî, 2001)
- **Examen du langage oral et écrit et des compétences transversales (EXALang 5-8)**
[Assessment of oral and written language and transversal skills] (Thibault et al., 2003)
- **Nouvelles Épreuves pour l'Examen du Langage (N-EEL)**
[New tasks for the assessment of language] (Chevrie-Muller & Plaza, 2001)

French (France) Speech Interventions

- No published intervention method for French
- Speech interventions frequently used with French-speaking children with SSD include:
 - Cued articulation
 - Phonological awareness
 - Traditional articulation therapy

Reference

Book chapter

- Almeida, L. & dos Santos, C. (forthcoming). French (France) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

Presentation

- Almeida, L, & dos Santos, C. (2023). *French (France): Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.
<https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/languages>
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