

L Sound Words: Lists by Position, Typical Ages, and How to Practice at Home

What age do kids typically say the L sound?

Age band	What's typical
Under 3	L is often still missing or replaced with w or y ("wion," "yeg"). Completely normal at this stage.
3.5 to 4	L starts showing up more consistently, especially at the start of words.
4 to 5	Most children have acquired the L sound by around age 4, per the acquisition data.
5 to 6	L should be reliable across most words and positions, including blends like "black" or "sleep."
6 and up	If L is still consistently missing or distorted, it's worth a conversation with an SLP.

L at the start of words

lion	leaf	lamp	light
lip	log	love	laugh
ladder	lunch		

L in the middle of words

yellow	balloon	silly	pillow
jelly	hello	elephant	flower
color	gallon		

L at the end of words

ball	bell	doll	owl
pool	smile	apple	table
snail	wheel		