



## Support Measures and Strategies

If you suspect that your children have articulation problem, they may be referred by the school to the SBST for follow-up.

## Useful Website and Telephone Number for Enquiry

### Hotline

If you have any questions, please call the Education Bureau at 3698 3957.

### Website

“SENSE” Integrated Education and Special Education Information website  
<https://sense.edb.gov.hk/>



## Roles of Parents

Parents can help your children with articulation problem in the following ways:

- ▶ Providing correct demonstration regarding the speech sound errors of your children.
- ▶ While speaking, letting your children see the mouth shapes of different sounds clearly.
- ▶ Giving your children adequate speaking time.
- ▶ Encouraging your children to speak at an appropriate rate to improve speech intelligibility.
- ▶ Appreciating the efforts of your children and giving positive feedback, and encouraging them to face their articulation difficulties with a positive attitude and participate in training actively, so as not to affect their speaking motivation.
- ▶ Communicating more with teachers to understand the situation your children situation at school, and practicing articulation with your children according to the suggestions of the school-based speech therapist (SBST).

# Understanding Articulation Problem

Yes, let's “sweep” the floor.

Let's “deep” the floor.



## Introduction

To express ideas clearly, apart from the contents of the speech, speech intelligibility is also important. Many parents wonder whether the articulation problem of their children will improve with age, or when they need to seek professional support. Generally, children can master most of the speech sounds of Cantonese when they enter primary school. However, owing to different reasons, some students may have articulation problem and fail to pronounce the speech sound s accurately, which may cause unclear speech and, affect their learning and social life.

### Stopping

- ▶ For example (in English): sell → tell, fill → bill

### Deaspiration

- ▶ For example (in English): pay → bay, tall → doll

### Devoicing

- ▶ For example (in English):  
/z/ in zoo is pronounced as /s/

### Fronting or Backing

- ▶ For example (in English):  
cookie → tootie, tap → cap



### Gliding

- ▶ For example (in English): like → yike

### Diphthong Reduction

- ▶ For example (in English): /i/ (e sound) in the diphthong of “boy” is omitted.

### Final Consonant Deletion

- ▶ For example (in English): foot → foo, ten → ten

## Causes of articulation problem

There are many causes of articulation problem. Developmental delay, congenital physical defects such as, cleft lip and cleft palate, cerebral palsy or hearing impairment, etc., are all possible causes of articulation problem.

## What is “Articulation Problem”?

Articulation problem (i.e., speech sound disorder) refers to children who have passed the age of mastering certain speech sounds, but still cannot pronounce them accurately and cause unclear speech. Common problems are as follows:

### Dentalization

- ▶ For example: while saying words with /s/ sound, for example, “sea side”, the tongue-tip protrudes

### Lateralization

- ▶ For example (in English): while saying words with /s/ sound, for example, “singing songs”, airstream flows along both sides of the mouth.

