**Articulation or Phonological Delay?**

**What’s the Difference?**

Parents may wonder what the difference is between an articulation delay and a phonological delay. Both involve having difficulty producing sounds correctly and negatively affect speech intelligibility. However, an articulation delay or disorder is characterized by the omission, distortion or substitution of specific sounds that have NO pattern. An example of an articulation disorder is a lisp. Phonological processing delays, on the other hand, do have patterns. Most of these patterns are developmental in nature in that most children typically demonstrate them while developing speech. However, for some reason, some children continue to exhibit these patterns past the time most children suppress tehm. An example of a phonological process is final consonant deletion (cup > kuh, eat > ee). Another example is fronting, in which sounds that should be made in the back of the mouth are made in the front of the mouth (cup > tup, back > bat, gum > dum, bug > bud). Hope this answered the question! For more information, contact your child’s speech therapist.