Phonological Processes
Cluster Reduction

When learning to talk, some children may have difficulties in producing and organizing their speech sounds in words. This results in speech that is unclear or difficult to understand. Speech and Language Therapists describe these errors as 'phonological processes'. Many of these error patterns are common in the early development of speech, however if they persist beyond the age that the majority of children stop using them, then speech development is impacted and intervention is recommended.

What is Cluster Reduction?

CLUSTER REDUCTION is when a child omits one of the consonants in a cluster. Consonant clusters can be at the start of words e.g. '_st_ar' '_bl_ue' '_cl_oud', in the middle of words e.g. 'ba_sk_et' 'mon_st_er' and at the end of words e.g. 'de_sk_'
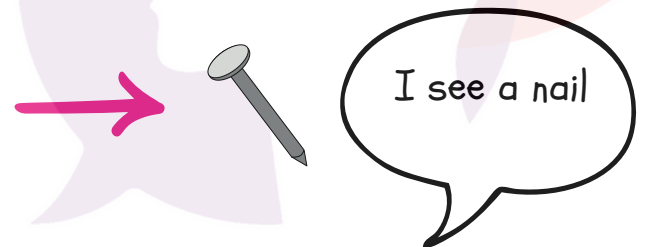
When CLUSTER REDUCTION errors are made you may still be able to understand the child, but the meaning of their sentences may have changed e.g. 'I see a nail' instead of 'I see a snail' in other cases, sentences won't make sense e.g. 'I see a nake' instead of 'I see a snake'

EXAMPLE.....

WHAT THEY ARE MEANT TO SAY....

I see a snail

WHAT THEY ACTUALLY SAY...

I see a nail

CLUSTER REDUCTION SOUND ERRORS

sp →	p
st →	t
bl →	l
cr →	r

Many children stop CLUSTER REDUCTION by 4-5 years