### Why do Articulation Errors Occur?

- **Child Development:** Children learn to produce different sounds at different ages. They learn to say the easiest sounds first and the hardest sounds develop over time.

- **Muscular:** Poor muscle strength, range of movement, and/or coordination. This disorder is referred to as developmental dysarthria.

- **Structural:** A child may have a tongue-tie, cleft palate, or an overbite.

- **Sequencing Muscle Movements:** This refers to the brain’s ability to communicate with the speech muscles to achieve coordinated muscle movement during sequencing of speech sounds. This disorder is referred to as developmental apraxia/dyspraxia.

- **Phonology:** A child does not follow the standard rules regarding sound production and makes up his own (e.g., child’s rule: every time a word has an f sound, I will make a p sound).

- **Hearing:** A history of ear infections (i.e., fluid in the middle ear) affects how sounds are heard and as a result, how sounds are learned and produced.

- **Genetic:** There may be a family history of articulation difficulties.

- **No known reason.** Sometimes, it just happens.