

Childhood Apraxia of Speech



Children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech have difficulty articulating sounds, syllables, and words.

At the *Neurocognition of Language Laboratory* at Teachers College Columbia University, we are studying language and the brain. Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a condition that researchers and medical professionals still want to know more about. We hope that one day our studies will help us understand more about CAS, and maybe even help to develop better therapies to help those affected.

We need your help.



What can you do?

We are looking for children between the ages of 5 and 10 with a diagnosis of CAS as well as typically developing children of the same age. If you are interested in allowing your child to take part in our research to learn more about the brain and CAS, please contact us at the Neurocognition of Language Lab (NCLLab) in Teachers College, Columbia University. We will carry out some tests of hearing, speech and language, and we will place a sensor net on your child's head to record brain activity while he/she listens to some sounds. The procedure is very safe, and approved for use with children.

Contact Information

The principal investigators for this study are:

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The Institutional Review Board has approved this study.

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Protocol # 14-029



Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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Questions and Answers

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be given a hearing screening, and some speech and language assessments will be carried out, which will be recorded. Then s/he will choose a movie to watch (without the sound on) while we record his/her brain activity. We will place electrodes on your child's head (see the picture on the back of this brochure), and your child will hear some sounds while we record their brain responses.

How long will it take?

The first session will be completed either at your home, or in the lab – whichever is easiest for you – and will take approximately 2 hours. The second session will take place in the NCLLab and will take approximately 1.5 hours.

Can I be reimbursed for travel costs?

We can provide reimbursement for travel costs up to \$50, and each child who completes the experimental activities will receive a Toys R Us™ gift card and a special *Junior Neuroscientist* certificate.

What are the risks of taking part in this research, and how will you protect my child?

There is always a risk in taking part in research. For this study, we use the safest methods available for measuring brain activity. Our equipment is safety-rated to worldwide standards and is often used on small children, even newborns. We keep our equipment very clean, and use hospital standards to disinfect and maintain equipment. Your child might find the net a bit uncomfortable at first, but we are very experienced in working with children and we know that they usually adjust very well. Your child might find some of the tasks boring, so we build in breaks for games and snacks, and you will be present with your child the whole time.

What are the benefits of taking part in this study?

There are no direct benefits to you or your child for taking part in this study. We hope that the study will help us understand more about speech sound disorders, and one day perhaps lead to advances in treatment.

But we cannot guarantee this.

How will you protect my child's privacy?

We take the privacy of you and your child very seriously. We never record any data about your child with a name or identifying information attached. Your child will be assigned a code number from our lab logbook, and all data will use ONLY the number. We store information in locked file cabinets and on specially secured computers that can only be accessed by the research team.

Will you video or audio record my child?

Video recordings are part of our research, as they allow us to tell when your child is paying attention or moving around while we record brain activity. However, these video recordings do not show your child's face, and are not identifiable. If you would rather we did not video your child during brain recordings, you will have a chance to tell us so and you can still be in the study. We WILL audio record your child during the speech and language tests. This is for detailed analysis later on, and is essential to the study.

What will my child get for taking part?

We are very grateful to you and your child for considering taking part in this research. Every child that completes the whole study will get a gift card to Toys'R'Us™. They will also receive a *Junior Neuroscientist* certificate as a special thank you from us.

Who will carry out the research?

The investigators are all qualified and experienced Speech-Language Pathologists who have a lot of experience doing this kind of work with children. The two principal investigators are professors: Dr Karen Froud, and Dr Reem Khamis-Dakwar. Other members of the team are speech-language pathologists who are studying towards their doctoral degree.

I'd like more information, or I'd like to take part in the research. What now?

Please get in touch! Contact information is on the front of this brochure. Thanks!