

Facts about Diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech

In the US, a licensed speech-language pathologist who is trained in making a differential diagnosis, is best qualified to diagnose childhood apraxia of speech.

The age of diagnosis of childhood apraxia of speech is different for each child and dependent upon their verbal abilities.

Childhood apraxia of speech can occur in children by itself, or along with other communication challenges such as dysarthria, phonological delays, delayed language, autism, or other possible comorbidities.

Children with childhood apraxia of speech who are identified early often make good progress in therapy.

The Apraxia Kids website has information for new parents about how to make a diagnosis of childhood apraxia of speech.

Fast Facts about Therapy for Childhood Apraxia of Speech

Children with childhood apraxia of speech require intensive speech therapy (2-4 days a week) to acquire speech and language skills.

Kids with childhood apraxia of speech require a specific type of treatment for the disorder which often includes multi-sensory cues.

Speech therapy for childhood apraxia of speech focuses on the motor planning skills necessary for establishing coarticulatory transitions between sounds, syllables and words.

Appropriate therapy for childhood apraxia of speech is based on the Principles of Motor Learning.

Apraxia Kids website has numerous webinars describing appropriate treatment strategies for clinicians and home practice for parents.

Navigating your Journey

When children are suspected or diagnosed with childhood apraxia of speech, the NEW TO APRAXIA page on the Apraxia Kids website provides valuable information for parents.

Young children with childhood apraxia of speech sometimes use Augmentative/Alternative Communication systems to express themselves when words are hard which promotes verbal speech.

Parents can find support by engaging in Apraxia Kids support groups and participating in local Walks for Apraxia.

Participating in research studies helps build our knowledge base about appropriate diagnosis and treatment of childhood apraxia of speech.

As children grow and mature into young adults, they can still have struggles and need support as All Stars.

What is Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS)?

About 1 in 1000 children are diagnosed with childhood apraxia of speech which is similar to the prevalence of children diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

Childhood apraxia of speech is a congenital, neurological speech disorder involving the ability to motor plan the oral movements needed to produce words.

Children with childhood apraxia of speech are at a higher risk for literacy/reading difficulties.

Not all SLPs have proper training or the knowledge required to diagnose and treat childhood apraxia of speech.

The Apraxia Kids website has a Speech Language Pathologist Directory to help parents find a qualified therapist in their area that is well-versed in apraxia.