



CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH

Speech-language pathologists can help.

WHAT IS CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH?

Childhood apraxia of speech is a rare but severe motor speech disorder that affects **less than 1% of children**.

Children with apraxia have difficulty speaking clearly because their brains cannot plan and coordinate the movements of their lips, tongue and jaw. They often do not babble as infants and begin talking much later than their peers. When children with apraxia do speak, it is hard for others to understand them.



In most cases, the cause of apraxia is unknown.

However, evidence suggests that **genetics play a role**. Many children with apraxia also have other conditions, such as neurological impairment, autism, epilepsy and other genetic or chromosomal abnormalities.



IDENTIFYING AND TREATING CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH:

Speech-language pathologists are specially trained to assess, identify and treat children with communication disorders, including childhood apraxia of speech. Children with apraxia can benefit from specialised, intensive speech therapy that helps them learn the movement patterns required for speech.

This may include:



practicing **words** and **phrases** repeatedly



using a variety of **cues** and **prompts**



finding other ways to express themselves until their speech improves (e.g., using **sign language** or communication devices, such as **computers** or **tablets**)



SAC

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If you think your child may have apraxia, or if you are worried about any aspect of your child's speech and language development, contact a speech-language pathologist today.