

WHAT IS CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH?



Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a **neurological speech disorder** in which children have difficulty planning and programming complex movement sequences underlying speech production.

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children **per 1,000** are affected by CAS



CAS affects **more boys** than girls

MAIN FEATURES OF CAS



Inconsistent sound errors (both consonants and vowels) in repeated attempts to produce syllables or words.



Lengthened and disrupted transitions between sounds and syllables; difficulty creating a flow of speech that is smooth and continuous.



Difficulty with some aspects of the “melody” of speech (stress, intonation, rate, pitch).



Vowel distortions and deletions/distortions of consonants.



More errors and struggle as the length and complexity of an utterance increases.

HOW IT IMPACTS THE CHILD



Speech attempts not understood, or understood only by family.



Often frustration or sadness with being misunderstood and possible reticence to initiate conversations.



Reduced opportunities to engage in communication exchanges and learn the “rules” of conversation.



Possible isolation from peers and community or treated as if he/she is a much younger child.



A cascade of other issues may be ignited from this lack of early communicative ability—social, behavioral, academic learning, etc.



WHAT



HELPS



SPEECH THERAPY

Early, appropriate, frequent and intensive; must be appropriate for the **underlying problem**—speech motor planning and programming.

LOVE & SUPPORT

From **extended family and the community.**



COMMUNICATION

Augmentative and/or alternative communication forms such as **dedicated AAC devices, iPads with communication apps,** and/or **sign language.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT APRAXIA-KIDS.ORG