EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006
INTRODUCTION

Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a complex motor speech disorder that often requires lengthy treatment and may contribute, like many other speech disorders in children, to academic and social difficulties. Speech-language pathologists treating children with CAS need a solid understanding of motor learning principles and how treatment for CAS differs from that of other speech sound disorders. This journal self-study addresses what is currently known about treatment outcomes for CAS and explores specific treatment programs that have been shown to benefit children with CAS and are supported by evidence. Information about incorporating biofeedback, which is not commonly used in the treatment of CAS, is also discussed, with preliminary studies showing promising results. In addition to specific treatment programs and tools, a discussion of how to structure and vary treatment tasks is included, with all studies providing recommendations that can be incorporated immediately into treatment. Those working with children with CAS understand how complicated treatment for this disorder can be and will appreciate the clinical suggestions provided in this self-study.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- Identify specific treatment programs that have been shown to lead to positive outcomes for children with CAS
- Apply motor learning principles to the treatment of CAS
- Discuss aspects of treatment for CAS that may result in speech improvements, including type of cues and structure and variability of practice tasks
- Explain how biofeedback can be used in CAS treatment

PROGRAM HISTORY

Articles originally published in American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology.
Start date: May 16, 2015
Peer reviewed: November 19, 2013
Available through: November 19, 2016

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the test with a passing score on or before November 19, 2016.

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please search by title in ASHA’s online store at www.asha.org/shop.

This course is offered for 0.45 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).