# WHY Are Kids Minimally Speaking?

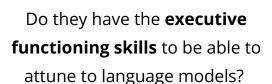




## **Dyspraxia**

The brain body **disconnect** of apraxia/dyspraxia *does not allow them* to reliably express their thoughts.

## Attention



### **Social Motivation**



Does the child **want** to engage with others? Can't accurately judge if the child doesn't have full control of their body.

## **Selective Mutism**

Is an anxiety disorder stopping them from accessing speech?

## **Sensory Processing**

If processing sensory information is overwhelming and a full time job, or child is often feeling *dysregulated* or *uncomfortable* in their own body, they may not be able to tune into language models or focus on language output.



# **Auditory Processing**

Are they **processing** the sounds and words they are hearing?

# **Doesn't See Need for Speech**

Autistic adults have shared that they were nonspeaking until age 3-6+ partly because they didn't realize that others couldn't understand their thoughts. They didn't grasp the need for spoken word.

<sup>\*</sup>often a combination of some or many of the above factors will affect a child's access to reliable speech.