



# WHY Are Kids Minimally Speaking?



## Dyspraxia

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



## Attention

Do they have the **executive functioning skills** to be able to attune to language models?



## 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.

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