



Apraxia of Speech



WHAT IS APRAXIA?

Apraxia of Speech is a speech sound disorder. The production of speech is affected due to a neurological disorder pertaining to the brain pathways that involve the arrangement of sequenced movements that are involved. The severity of apraxia varies by case.

TYPES & CAUSE:

Acquired Apraxia

Impairment to parts of the brain that control speech
Affects any age; more commonly adults
May result from stroke, head injury, tumor, or other brain damage

Childhood Apraxia

Present at birth
Also known as developmental AOS, developmental verbal AOS, or articulatory AOS
Not the same as developmental delays
No known cause
May be genetic
More likely to affect boys versus girls

SYMPTOMS:

Distortion of Phonemes

Inconsistent Errors in Speech

Groping for Phonemes

Errors in Tone, Stress and Rhythm

Expressive language issues and motor-skill issues

Typically understands language better than their ability of production

Childhood AOS

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT:

There is no test or simple solution involved in the diagnosis of AOS. Typically an SLP will look for the symptoms that are mentioned above. The client may be asked to repeat a word or phrase several times for diagnostic purposes. For acquired AOS, they may be asked to read, write, converse, and perform non-speech related movements. For childhood AOS, they will be observed over a period of time before ruling a diagnosis.

A spontaneous recovery may occur, which means the client overcame the issue on their own. However, children do not outgrow this or acquire speech from their peers. One-on-one intensive speech-language therapy is needed for childhood AOS and acquired AOS who do not have a spontaneous recovery. No single approach has been proven to be effective. The client may need to rely on other forms of communication such as AAC devices, pictures or sign language. Extra practice in the home environment are incredibly important.

SOURCE:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017, October 31). Apraxia of speech. National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Retrieved December 7, 2022, From [https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/apraxia-speech#:~:text=Apraxia%20of%20speech%20\(AOS\)%E2%80%94%94to%20say%20correctly%20and%20consistently.](https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/apraxia-speech#:~:text=Apraxia%20of%20speech%20(AOS)%E2%80%94%94to%20say%20correctly%20and%20consistently.)

