

# CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH

what it is and how you can support your child



## WHAT IS IT?

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a neurological disorder that makes it difficult for a child to say certain sounds and words and have typical rhythm of their speech (ASHA).

## WHAT CAUSES IT?

- a genetic disorder
- a stroke or brain injury
- sometimes, it's unknown
- ultimately, the brain has trouble planning, directing, and programming the muscles used for speaking (Fish, 2016)



## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- inconsistency in the words/sounds they are producing
- difficulty saying longer words clearly
- consistent pauses and breaks between sounds and syllables
- robotic tone to their speech
- errors pronouncing vowels
- delayed language
- issues with reading, writing, and spelling

(Fish, 2016)

## TREATMENT

- speech therapy with an SLP
- goal of treatment: help your child produce clearer speech sounds, words, and sentences
- your child will learn how to plan their mouth movements to have clearer sounds and learn
- your child may learn how to support their communication with sign languages, picture boards, or talking computers

(ASHA)

### References:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Childhood Apraxia of Speech. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Retrieved October 25, 2022, from <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/childhood-apraxia-of-speech/>  
Fish. (2016). Here's how to treat childhood apraxia of speech (Second edition.). Plural Publishing, Inc.

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