



## WHAT IS CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH?



Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a **neurological speech disorder** in which children have difficulty planning and programming complex movement sequences underlying speech production.

**1-2**

children **per 1,000** are affected by CAS



CAS affects **more boys** than girls

### MAIN FEATURES OF CAS



**Inconsistent sound errors (both consonants and vowels) in repeated attempts to produce syllables or words.**



**Lengthened and disrupted transitions between sounds and syllables; difficulty creating a flow of speech that is smooth and continuous.**



**Difficulty with some aspects of the “melody” of speech (stress, intonation, rate, pitch).**



**Vowel distortions and deletions/distortions of consonants.**



**More errors and struggle as the length and complexity of an utterance increases.**

### HOW IT IMPACTS THE CHILD



**Speech attempts not understood, or understood only by family.**



**Often frustration or sadness with being misunderstood and possible reticence to initiate conversations.**



**Reduced opportunities to engage in communication exchanges and learn the “rules” of conversation.**



**Possible isolation from peers and community or treated as if he/she is a much younger child.**



**A cascade of other issues may be ignited from this lack of early communicative ability—social, behavioral, academic learning, etc.**



### WHAT



### HELPS



#### SPEECH THERAPY

**Early, appropriate, frequent and intensive;** must be appropriate for the **underlying problem**—speech motor planning and programming.

#### LOVE & SUPPORT

From **extended family and the community.**



#### COMMUNICATION

Augmentative and/or alternative communication forms such as **dedicated AAC devices, iPads with communication apps,** and/or **sign language.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [APRAXIA-KIDS.ORG](http://APRAXIA-KIDS.ORG)

# May 14th is Apraxia Awareness Day

For More  
Information About  
Apraxia Of Speech  
Visit:

[Apraxia-Kids](http://Apraxia-Kids)