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Apraxia of Speech

A child with “Apraxia of Speech” (also referred to as *Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia*, *Developmental Verbal Apraxia*, *Childhood Apraxia of Speech*) is defined as a persistent, severe speech disorder that is neurologically based resulting in difficulty with motor planning and programming (Strode et. al 2006). Children with Apraxia of Speech may also have associated language and learning difficulties. The below guide lists a few activities to help increase vocalization and verbalization in these youngsters.

ACTIVITY 1: Use Movement

Children with Apraxia of Speech can sometimes produce sounds more easily if the sound production is associated with a gross motor movement (e.g. jumping, swinging, banging a toy hammer on a board, etc).

ACTIVITY 2: Provide Sound Effects

Sound effects and/or descriptive words to describe actions are helpful ways to encourage the child to approximate new sounds and syllables. For example, when wiping down a table, say “weesh.”

ACTIVITY 3: Use Action Games and Routines

A teacher or parent might say “Ready, set ...” and the child with Apraxia of Speech will say GO!

ACTIVITY 4: Fill It In

Have the child with Apraxia of Speech fill in a sound, last word or blank when reading a familiar book, nursery rhyme or poem.