



## What is Apraxia?

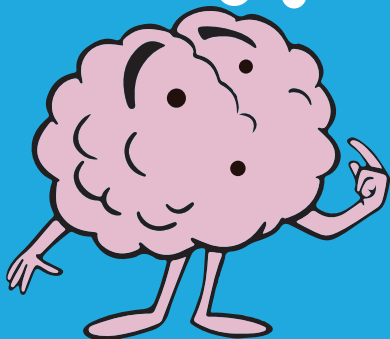
Childhood apraxia of speech is a severe speech delay that makes it difficult for children to speak. Children with the diagnosis of apraxia of speech generally have a good understanding of language and know what they want to say. However, they have difficulty learning or carrying out the complex sequenced movements that are necessary for intelligible speech.

I want to say something!



But how do I get my mouth to say the right sounds in the right words in the right order?

ah  
wah  
ay  
suh  
nuh  
tuh



# TEACHER INFORMATION SHEET

## How is Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) different than a Speech Delay?

A true developmental delay of speech is when a child is following a “typical” path of speech development, although at a rate slower than normal. A child with CAS is on a “different” path, and has difficulty planning the movement sequences required for speech. This may result in inconsistent errors and difficulty with smooth transitions from sound to sound or syllable to syllable to form words,



## 5 WAYS THAT TEACHERS CAN HELP

**BE PATIENT.** Kids with CAS generally take more time to express themselves, so please try not to rush the child into saying something. Being patient and listening is the best way to demonstrate care and respect.

**OFFER VERBAL OPTIONS.** If posing open-ended questions are proving too difficult for the child, offer some options for the child to verbalize. For example: “*This weekend, did you stay at home with your family or did you go someplace new?*”

**USE VISUALS.** Some kids with CAS will have a AAC while others may use sentence strips. Try to incorporate any kind of visuals into learning time so success isn’t only reliant on verbal output.

**BUILD A COMMUNITY.** It can be an isolating and lonely time for a child with CAS. Try to incorporate activities that help the child with CAS integrate with students that they wouldn’t normally engage with.

**DEMONSTRATE FAILURES.** We all make mistakes but sometimes for kids with CAS, they feel like they are the only one who’s making them. Feel free to make some speech and language “mistakes” to demonstrate to the child(ren) how this isn’t anything to be ashamed of and how you can succeed from it.