

# KNOW BEFORE YOU KNOCK

Every child and family has unique aspects of their situation, experience, and diagnosis. This page is intended to provide a general overview, but is not attempting to represent every situation or child you encounter. Every family deserves your expertise to assess and adapt your prior knowledge. This resource is best viewed electronically.

## DEFINITION

"Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a neurological childhood (pediatric) speech sound disorder in which the precision and consistency of movements underlying speech are impaired in the absence of neuromuscular deficits (e.g. abnormal reflexes, abnormal tone)" (1)

## PREVALENCE

1-2 per 1000 children (2)

## NATIONAL/STATE ORGS

[Apraxia Kids](#)

"Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech."

## TOP RESOURCES

- [ASHA Childhood Apraxia of Speech](#)- especially note the Treatment section
- [Bilingual Kids with CAS Learning Module](#)
- [Child Apraxia Treatment](#)

## CONSIDERATIONS

THAT MAY IMPACT SERVICES

- Diagnosis of CAS in children under 3 years of age is challenging for a variety of reasons (1)
- Potential to run in families due to the involvement of the FOXP2 gene (3)
- Consider differential diagnosis with Autism (4)
- Concurrent motor apraxia (5)
- Traditional expressive language delay strategies may not be effective for children with CAS (6)
- All children with CAS struggle with controlling speech movements. Not all children who struggle with controlling speech movements qualify for an apraxia of speech diagnosis. (1)

## DIFFERENCES

THAT MAY BE PRESENT

- "Babbling less or making fewer vocal sounds than is typical
- Speaking first words late
- Using a limited number of consonants and vowels
- Having a hard time imitating simple words
- Vowel and consonant distortions
- Pauses between syllables or words
- Inconsistency, such as making different errors when trying to say the same word a second time
- Using the wrong stress in a word, such as pronouncing "banana" as "BUH-nan-uh" instead of "buh-NAN-uh." (3)
- Age appropriate receptive language skills
- Problems learning to read, spell, and write (1)

## LANGUAGE

TO USE/AVOID

- Assure parents that the child's speech delay is not their fault.
- Assure parents that their child is trying their best to communicate
- Avoid: "Mute"
- Avoid jumping to conclusions: it is recommended to observe a child on multiple occasions and build rapport with a parent before mentioning the possibility of a CAS diagnosis in the child's future.

## SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS

THAT COULD BE USED OR SEEN IN MEDICAL RECORDS

- CAAP-2: Clinical Assessment of Articulation and Phonology
- Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation 3
- Hodson Assessment of Phonological Patterns-3

CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH