



8707 Skokie Blvd. Ste 402
Skokie, IL 60077
847-329-8226 Fax: 847 329-8252
www.weespeech.com

APRAXIA



Apraxia of speech is a specific motor speech disorder which causes a child to have difficulty in planning and producing specific and precise speech movements for the lips, jaw and tongue when talking. Apraxia is not caused by muscle weakness or paralysis; it is difficulty coordinating the necessary muscle movements. At this time, the causes of apraxia of speech in childhood are unknown.

Signs and Symptoms:

Children may begin exhibiting signs of speech apraxia at an early age, as they begin trying to speak. As the child grows, the signs may change and evolve.

Between the ages 18 months and 2 years, the following symptoms may indicate suspected apraxia of speech:

- The ability to form only a few consonant or vowel sounds
- Delayed onset of first words
- A limited number of spoken words
- Loss of previously used words
- Lack of gestures, or poor use of gestures as an infant and toddler
- Difficulty imitating simple words

As children produce more speech, usually between ages 2 and 4, characteristics associated with apraxia of speech include:

- Vowel and consonant distortions
- Separation of syllables in or between words
- Voicing errors, such as “pea” sounding like “bee”

An older child with a more developed speech pattern may indicate apraxia with the following signs:

- Sound errors are inconsistent
- Can comprehend language much better than he/she can talk
- May appear to be groping when attempting to produce sounds or struggle to intentionally coordinate movements of jaw, lips or tongue
- Has difficulty producing sounds when saying longer words or phrases
- Speech sounds monotonous or choppy; difficulty with the “rhythm” of speech
- Stresses the wrong part of the word or phrase

Apraxia of speech is a dynamic disorder and the characteristics of your child's speech can change over time, with appropriate speech therapy and neurological maturation.

If you have questions, contact the team of Speech-Language Pathologists at: Wee Speech, P.C.