



What is Apraxia of Speech?

Apraxia of speech is a disorder causing a person trouble saying what he or she wants to say correctly and with consistency. This is not usually due to weakness or paralysis of muscles, but due to difficulty coordinating movements.

Developmental apraxia of speech (DAS) occurs in children from birth. It is more common in boys than girls and may be called developmental verbal apraxia, developmental verbal dyspraxia, articulatory apraxia, or childhood apraxia of speech. Apraxia is different from what is known as a developmental delay of speech where a child is simply slower to follow a 'typical' path of speech development.

Signs and symptoms of apraxia of speech include lack of cooing and babbling as an infant, limited use of consonants in speech, the ability to produce all or most sounds in isolation but having difficulty combining consonants and vowels. Longer or more complex words are usually harder to say and those with apraxia tend to make inconsistent

mistakes when they are speaking. Children with developmental apraxia of speech usually understand language better than they are able to use it to express themselves. Some, but not all children with apraxia, may also have trouble with vocabulary, grammar, and difficulty organizing their thoughts to speak. They may also have problems with writing, spelling, math, motor skills, and/or chewing and swallowing difficulties.



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