**CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH**

what it is and how you can support your child

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**WHAT IS IT?**

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a neurological disorder that makes it difficult for a child to say certain sounds and words and have typical rhythm of their speech (ASHA).

**WHAT CAUSES IT?**

- a genetic disorder
- a stroke or brain injury
- sometimes, it's unknown
- ultimately, the brain has trouble planning, directing, and programming the muscles used for speaking (Fish, 2016)

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**

- inconsistency in the words/sounds they are producing
- difficulty saying longer words clearly
- consistent pauses and breaks between sounds and syllables
- robotic tone to their speech
- errors pronouncing vowels
- delayed language
- issues with reading, writing, and spelling

(Fish, 2016)

**TREATMENT**

- speech therapy with an SLP
- goal of treatment: help your child produce clearer speech sounds, words, and sentences
- your child will learn how to plan their mouth movements to have clearer sounds and learn
- your child may learn how to support their communication with sign languages, picture boards, or talking computers

(ASHA)

References: