

imagine if

Appraising Apraxia

Characteristics of Childhood Apraxia of Speech

Often Present, But Not Discriminative

Limited consonant and vowel repertoire

Children with delayed speech/language or other speech-sound disorder (SSD) may have a limited repertoire. However, children with CAS may have a more limited vowel repertoire than is typically seen in phonological impairment.

Use of simple syllable shapes and frequent omission of sounds

Sound omission and use of simple syllable shapes are common, and although seen in children with CAS, are not distinguishing characteristics of the disorder.

Numerous errors (poor standard scores on articulation test)

Children with all types of SSD may make numerous errors, and score poorly on standardised assessment tools.

Poor intelligibility

Any child with a severe SSD (CAS, phonological impairment, and/or dysarthria) may show poor intelligibility.

More Discriminative

Difficulty moving from one articulatory configuration to another

Movements may be inaccurate, clumsy, or awkward as the child attempts the continuous movement across the syllable.

Vowel distortions

These are not substitution errors, but are distortions of the intended vowel (because the vocal tract is not in just the right shape or length).

Groping and/or trial-and-error behavior

Typically seen in elicited utterances, especially with cueing, but not often in spontaneous utterances.

Prosodic errors

These may be lexical stress errors (putting stress on the wrong syllable). More commonly, one sees use of equal stress and segmentation of syllables.

Inconsistent voicing errors

The child may use the correct voicing feature inconsistently. More often, the clinician may have difficulty determining if a sound is voiced or unvoiced (likely due to mistiming of voice onset time).