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Back to Basics: Foundations for CAS Intervention

1. Which of the following is a type of childhood speech disorder?

- A. Articulation Disorder
 - B. Phonological Processing Disorder
 - C. Childhood Apraxia of Speech
 - D. All of the above
-

2. What is the current and preferred label for describing children who have difficulty planning/programming the movements required for production of speech?

- A. Dyspraxia
 - B. Developmental Verbal Apraxia
 - C. Childhood Apraxia of Speech
 - D. Apraxia
-

3. Which of the following is the *most current* theory associated with CAS?

- A. Linguistic
 - B. Neurological
 - C. Combination of Linguistic and Motor Programming
 - D. Pure Motor
-

4. Comorbidities commonly associated with CAS include:

- A. Language Problems
 - B. Gross Motor Problems
 - C. Academic Problems
 - D. All of the above
-

5. Which of the following features is commonly agreed upon by experts to help with differential diagnosis of CAS?

- A. Rapid rate of speech
- B. Inconsistent errors across repeated productions
- C. Consistent errors every time a problem sound is produced
- D. Poor respiratory support for speech

6. Which of the following is true about random/blocked practice conditions?

- A. "Blocked" refers to practice of multiple targets in large blocks of time
- B. Multiple targets should be presented via random practice when a child is first learning a skill
- C. Blocked practice results in greater generalization of skills
- D. Random practice results in greater generalization of skills

7. Which of the following is an example of providing feedback about *results*?

- A. "Put your tongue behind your teeth"
- B. "Close your teeth"
- C. "Good job on that /s/!"
- D. "You put your lips together like this"

8. Which of the following is an example of providing *knowledge*?

- A. "You know how you bit your bottom lip? That's how you do it"
- B. "Well done"
- C. "Not quite there, but close"
- D. "Awesome"

9. How often should a child with CAS receive speech therapy?

- A. As frequently and intensely as will be tolerated based on the child's age/severity of impairment
- B. Once to twice a week
- C. Every other week, with a home program carried out between clinic treatment sessions
- D. Therapy should be provided in a group setting, so whenever the group can meet

10. The mnemonic "ACEM" is an acronym for the key speech therapy components:

- A. Apraxia, Childhood, Effort, Motor
- B. Apraxia, Cognition, Education, Motivation
- C. Attention, CAS, Effort, Motor
- D. Attention, Cognition, Effort, Motivation



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Back to Basics: Foundations for CAS Intervention

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Back to Basics: Foundations for CAS Intervention

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Learning Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Define childhood apraxia of speech.
- Describe the theories which contribute to a diagnosis of CAS.
- Identify key treatment concepts for working with children with CAS.
- Describe two treatment activities for children with CAS.

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Childhood Speech Disorders

- Dysarthria
- Articulation Disorder
- Phonological Processing Disorder
- Childhood Apraxia of Speech

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).
- CAS may occur as a result of known neurological impairment, in association with complex neurobehavioral disorders of known or unknown origin, or as an idiopathic neurogenic speech sound disorder.
- The *core impairment in planning and/or programming spatiotemporal parameters of movement sequences* results in errors in speech sound production and prosody”. (ASHA, 2007)

Theories of CAS

- Linguistic (ASHA, 2007)
 - Held by Velleman, Strand, Aram, and Nation
 - Phonologically-based disorder of...
 - Sound sequencing
 - Substitutions, omissions, inconsistent production of consonants and vowels
 - Later problems with reading and spelling

Theories of CAS

- Neurological (ASHA, 2007)
 - Held by Crary and Sussman
 - Deficit in neural tissue
 - Lesions in the brain
 - Neurological “soft signs” (clumsiness, mild incoordination)
 - Sensory integration problems

Theories of CAS

- Motor Programming (ASHA, 2007)
 - Held by Crary and Sussman
 - Incoordination of planning and/or movements of the oral structures for speech activities
 - Groping
 - Difficulty sequencing oral motor movements
- Now – Motor/Linguistic theory compared with pure motor theory
 - Pure CAS is RARE, so the comorbid challenges make treatment more complex

Other Problems Associated with CAS

- Expressive and Receptive Language problems
- Academic problems
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Spelling
 - Other academic areas such as mathematics (Lewis et al, 2004)
- Motor skill problems
 - Gross motor (walking, running)
 - Fine motor (writing, cutting)
- Chewing and swallowing difficulties

Gross Motor Planning Video

Prevalence / Incidence

- Still inconclusive – poor diagnostic criteria, small sample sizes
- One to two children per thousand (Shriberg, Aram, & Kwiatkowski, 1997a)
- “In a study of 12,000 to 15,000 estimated diagnostic outcomes for children referred with speech delay of unknown origin from 1998 to 2004, a staff of 15 speech language pathologists in a large metropolitan hospital diagnosed 516 (3.4%-4.3%) of these children as having suspected CAS (Delaney & Kent, 2004)”

Prevalence / Incidence

- 2 – 3 times as common in boys than girls (Hall, Jordan, & Robin, 1993; Lewis et al., 2004)
- Often a comorbidity of various syndromes:
 - Galactosemia (Shriberg, Potter, & Strand, 2011),
 - Fragile X Syndrome (Spinelli, Rocha, Giacheti, & Richieri-Costa, 1995), and
 - Velocardiofacial syndrome (Kummer, Lee, Stutz, Maroney, & Brandt, 2007)
- Not more common in Autism Spectrum Disorder (Shriberg, Paul, Black, & van Santen, 2011).

Assessment / Differential Diagnosis

- "...three segmental and suprasegmental features that are consistent with a deficit in the planning and programming of movements for speech have gained some consensus among investigators in apraxia of speech in children:
 - (a) inconsistent errors on consonants and vowels in repeated productions of syllables or words,
 - (b) lengthened and disrupted coarticulatory transitions between sounds and syllables;
 - (c) inappropriate prosody, especially in the realization of lexical or phrasal stress (ASHA, 2007, p. 1).

Strand's 10-Point Checklist

- Difficulty achieving initial articulatory configurations and transitions into vowels
- Syllable segregation (pausing between syllables)
- Lexical stress errors or equal stress
- Vowel or consonant distortions including distorted substitutions
- Groping (non-speech)
- Intrusive schwa
- Voicing errors
- Slow rate
- Slow DDK rate
- Increased difficulty with longer or more phonetically complex words

* Strand's dx criterion for CAS is 4/10 over three different tasks

Components of a CAS Evaluation

- Hearing Assessment, Comprehension & Production
- Segmental Speech Abilities
 - Phonemic Repertoire
 - Articulation
 - Arizona Articulation Proficiency Scale (Western Psychological Services)
 - Second Contextual Articulation Test (S-CAT), Wayne Secord
 - Spontaneous Speech Sample
 - Controlled Phrases
 - Days of the week
 - Months of the year
 - Rote counting to 20
- The Dynamic Evaluation of Motor Speech Skill (DEMSS) (Strand et al, 2012)
 - For young children and children who are very severe with limited phonemic repertoire
 - Determines to what degree motor impairment may impact speech

Evaluation continued...

- Syllable Sequencing
 - Familiar multi-syllabic words
 - Unfamiliar multi-syllabic words
 - Diadochokinetic syllable rates
- Suprasegmental Patterns
 - Intonation Contours (nasality, pitch)
 - Modulation of Volume (too loud, too quiet)
 - Prosody (rate and rhythm)
- Motor Postures and Gestures
 - Strength, Tone, and Stability of articulators
 - Positioning of articulators
 - Sequencing (alternating movements: pucker/smile etc.)

continued

What if the child is too young/severe?

- The Dynamic Evaluation of Motor Speech Skill (DEMSS) by Strand et al, 2012
 - Developed for young children who would struggle with traditional standardized assessments
 - For people who are considered very severely impaired and have a limited phonemic repertoire
 - Determines to what degree motor impairment may impact speech

continued

Treatment

- "Yellow light" interventions
 - Approaches that have a lot of buzz, but less evidence than the Linguistic and Motor Programming Approaches to be discussed
 - Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets (PROMPT)
 - Melodic Intonation Therapy (MIT)
 - Kaufman Cards
- (Murray, McCabe, Ballard 2014; Maas, Gildersleeve-Neurmann, Jakielski, Stoeckel 2014)

Linguistic Approaches to Treatment

- Focus on the linguistic and phonological aspects of speech
- Emphasize the importance of functional communication (Velleman, 2003)
 - Cycles Approach (Hodson, 1989)
 - Integrated Phonological Awareness (IPA)

Motor Programming Approaches

- Distinguishes between performance and learning
- Motor PERFORMANCE is the accuracy of in-session behavior (Schmidt & Bjork, 1992)
- Motor LEARNING is the transfer of knowledge outside of the practice session (Schmidt & Bjork, 1992)
 - Dynamic Temporal and Tactile Cueing (DTTC)
 - Nuffield Dyspraxia Program(NDP3®)
 - Rapid Syllable Transitions (ReST):
<https://rest.sydney.edu.au/>

Conditions of Practice

- Randomized versus Blocked Practice
 - Blocked
 - One target is practiced at a time
 - Good when first learning a skill
 - Provides repetition and lots of opportunities to practice (Schmidt & Bjork, 1992)
 - Random
 - More than one target is practiced in the same activity
 - Leads to generalization of skills (Schmidt & Bjork, 1992)

Video of Blocked Practice

Video of Random Practice

Mass versus Distributed Practice

- Length of session and time between sessions
 - Mass Practice
 - One 60 minute session a week
 - Distributed Practice
 - Three 20-minute sessions over the course of the week or even daily
 - Shown to lead to greater learning (Strand et al., 2006)

Practice Variability

- Practicing targets in different settings
 - In different word positions within words, phrases or in conversational speech
 - “Promotes generalization in learning more effectively than consistent practice in which environmental and practice conditions don’t vary” (Wulf & Schmidt, 1997)

Blocked with Variability Video

Useful Prompts

- Visual prompts
 - Vowel Turtles
 - Consonant pictures
- Physical prompts
 - Placing your finger on your bottom lip and pushing to facilitate /f/ production
- Verbal prompts
 - “Bite down on your bottom lip and blow”

Providing Feedback

- Extrinsic Feedback
 - “Information and critique from the clinician regarding the client’s task performance” (Edeal & Gildersleeve - Neumann, 2011)
- Intrinsic Feedback
 - Client’s own assessment of performance
 - Develops self-monitoring and awareness

Providing Knowledge Versus Results

- Providing knowledge
 - “Information about the movement characteristics that lead to the performance outcome.”
 - Moving your lip under your top teeth really seemed to help!
- Providing results
 - “Knowledge about achieving the goal of the performance or externally presented information about the outcome of performing a skill.”
 - Great production of /f/!

(Sharma et al, 2016)

Really Severe Children

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
 - Picture Exchange Communication System
 - Speech Generating Device
 - Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)
 - TouchChat
 - ProLoQuo 2 Go
- Use of literature / toys to increase linguistic skills
 - Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Eric Carle
 - Great for repetition
 - Basic concepts

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AAC Video

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Nick,
Nick,
What do you see?

I see Mom
looking at me.



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Dosage and Session Format

- Intense and Frequent
 - Multiple repetitions and repeated opportunities for practice
- Frequency
 - Range from 3 – 5 individual speech therapy sessions per week (apraxia-kids.org)
 - Younger children with shorter attention spans, increased fatigue
 - Shorter, more frequent sessions (Skinder-Meredith, 2001)
- Clinical and home practice reveals best outcomes

Putting It All Together Video

Keys To Take Home

Remember the Acronym: **ACEM**

Attention

Cognition

Effort

Motivation

		Frame	
Content		Old	New
		Old	Old
		Old	New
		New	New

Keys to Take Home

- There are different programs on the market – no single program works for every child
- Always consider development – the “job” of a child is to play... therapy can be fun even if it’s hard
- Every child is an individual and therefore an individual profile should be considered for every child

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