



Developmental Apraxia of Speech (DAS)

What is apraxia of speech?

Apraxia of speech, formally called developmental apraxia of speech (DAS), is a speech disorder in children. The child has trouble saying what he or she wants to say correctly and consistently. By definition, it is the inability to execute a voluntary movement despite being able to demonstrate normal muscle function.

DAS is also known as:

- verbal apraxia
- dyspraxia
- childhood apraxia of speech

What causes DAS?

Scientists believe DAS is a disorder related to a child's overall language development while others think it is a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to send the proper signals to move the muscles involved in speech. Brain imaging and other studies have not found evidence of specific brain lesions or differences in brain structure in children with DAS.

Children with DAS often have family members with a history of communication disorders or learning disabilities. This observation and more recent research findings suggest that genetic factors may play a role in the disorder. DAS occurs in boys more often than girls, and it is present from birth.

How do I know if my child has DAS?

One of the most obvious symptoms is difficulty putting sounds and syllables together in the correct order to form words. Longer or more complex words are usually harder to say than shorter or simpler words. Children with DAS also tend to make inconsistent mistakes when speaking. For example, they may say a difficult word correctly, but have trouble repeating it, or they may be able to say a sound one day and have trouble with it the next day. They may appear to be groping for the right sound or word and may try saying a word several times before they say it correctly. Another common characteristic of DAS is the incorrect use of "prosody," the varying rhythms, stresses and inflections of speech that are used to help express meaning.

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Kenny Kids™ Pediatric Rehabilitation Program Locations

Kenny Kids – Buffalo

*Across the street from
Buffalo Hospital*
300 Catlin St., Suite 101
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-684-3888

Kenny Kids – Coon Rapids

3111 124th Ave. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763-236-7337

Kenny Kids – Owatonna

Owatonna Hospital
2250 NW 26th St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-977-2150



Developmental Apraxia of Speech (DAS) (cont'd)

What do I do if my child has DAS?

If you suspect your child may have DAS, contact your pediatrician to share your concerns. Your pediatrician will provide you with a referral to a speech-language pathologist to evaluate your child's speech production.

What is the prognosis for DAS?

The prognosis of DAS in each child will depend on a variety of factors, including severity, cause, age at intervention, response to treatment and external support system (parents, school, etc.).

Will DAS impact my child's learning and academics?

Depending on the severity of the child's DAS, his or her ability to effectively communicate thoughts and ideas may be affected. A child who has problems with speech sound production may struggle to effectively interact and relay information to peers and teachers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT DAS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

www.nidcd.nih.gov

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

www.asha.org

APRAXIA KIDS

www.apraxia-kids.org

KAUFMAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

www.kidspeech.com