

# Apraxia

Apraxia of speech is a motor disorder that causes impairment in the ability to program the positioning of the muscles that produce speech. Apraxia of speech occurs with other language disorders.

## Apraxia of Speech Characteristics

1. Effortful speech with a trial and error approach to getting the speech articulators (i.e., lips, tongue, jaw) in the correct positions
2. Altered prosody----stress, intonation, rhythm
3. Slow rate of speech with inconsistent speech productions
4. Difficulty initiating utterances with pauses, restarts and repetition of initial sounds
5. Often fully aware of errors

Example of Apraxia of Speech:

“Where did you go to high school?”

The person may respond with “sock, crock, rrrrock.....rrrr...rocking [pause], Rockville High School.”

Therapy for apraxia of speech focuses on performing drills and structured exercises to “relearn” speech movements. The objective is to make communication effective, efficient and natural sounding.