Overview

The Treatment Program for Childhood Apraxia of Speech is primarily designed for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) working with clients who present with sound production disorders secondary to a diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS). This program focuses on remediating a deficit in planning the motor sequences necessary to produce speech. This approach to intervention has been used primarily with children between the ages of four and eight but also with children as young as three and as old as 12. In order to use this program successfully, the client needs to demonstrate at least minimal attention to the clinician and the presented stimuli, and must possess the ability to imitate or attempt to imitate the clinician's model.

Chapters 1 and 2 of this treatment manual include a review of the literature. Although not exhaustive, it does provide guidelines on organizing practice and applying motor-learning principles during all stages of practice. All references included in Chapters 1 and 2 mirror the organization of treatment strategies in Chapters 3 through 5. Underlying research is included to aid the SLP in making informed clinical decisions when selecting treatment techniques for clients. The following areas are addressed in these chapters:

- definition and characteristics of CAS

- ASHA position statement on CAS

- issues in evidence-based practice

- premises underlying effective treatment, including principles of
  motor learning and the implementation of integral stimulation

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 focus on applying research to the therapy process. These chapters are divided into guidelines for clinicians to consider before, during, and after practice and include:

- how to use the included stimulus and cue cards

- description, key points, and examples for each aspect of therapy

Rather than a "cookbook" approach to intervention, this program provides the clinician with ideas, choices, and a rationale for therapy for individual clients. Not every presented aspect of treatment will be effective with every client.

The stimulus and cue cards for this program are listed on the following page.

Overview, *continued*

This program includes the following stimulus and cue cards:

- 325 stimulus cards, with three pictures per side (1,950 total pictures):
  - target phonemes:
    /p, b, m, w, f, v, θ, ð, t, d, s, z, l, n, tʃ, ʤ, ʃ, ʒ, r, ɝ, ɚ, j, k, g, ŋ, h/
  - s-, l-, and r-blends:
    /sm, sw, sn, sl, sp, st, sk/, /fl, pl, bl, kl, gl/, and /kr, gr, tr, dr, tr, br, fr/
  - phonemes targeted in the initial, medial, and final word positions
  - CV, VC, CVC, and two-syllable words
  - three blank cards for writing up to 18 specific words for clients (e.g., names, interests)

- 30 stimulus cards for multisyllabic words, with one picture per side (60 total pictures)

- 12 Tactile-Kinesthetic Cue Cards to facilitate motor planning and movement sequences for speech:
  1. CV Words
  2. VC Words
  3. CVC Words
  4. Initial Strident/Continuant
  5. Final Strident/Continuant
  6. Medial Consonants
  7. Backward Chaining: /s/ blends
  8. Backward Chaining: /l/, /r/ blends
  9. Three-Syllable Words
  10. Four-Syllable Words
  11. Repetitions: Caterpillar
  12. Repetitions: Dinosaur

- All cards may be written on with dry-erase markers.