

Motor Speech



What is it?

Motor speech disorders involve muscle weakness or difficulty coordinating the muscles used for speech from the messages the brain are sending. These might include dyspraxia, (or sometimes known as apraxia of speech), or dysarthria, causing the sounds and the words to come out inaccurately or jumbled. A person with motor speech difficulties may have difficulties producing clear and logical speech, will repeat words or phrases, and have difficulties controlling their rate, volume and pitch, as well as their breathing.

What ChatAbout can do:

Speech Pathology intervention can work to support a person with motor speech difficulties by incorporating the 'principles of motor learning' to ensure the best outcomes. The research tells us that the more practice we complete, the more positive the outcomes, so this means a lot of repetition! Speech therapy is always tailored to the individuals needs, and what impacts them and their speech the most in their day to day life.

Speech Pathologists can help to support people with motor speech difficulties by:

- Providing an accurate and comprehensive assessment of the oral structures (i.e. mouth, lips, palate, tongue) and speech sounds in words, sentences and conversation.
- Targeting and practicing the correct mouth movements to form accurate speech sounds for conversation and increasing muscle strength.
- Learning to use compensatory or holistic clear speech strategies (e.g. over articulating, pacing techniques, breath control techniques) within speech.
- Empowering the individual to judge the sound and quality of their own speech to promote self correction.
- Identifying any environmental modifications that might help the person to succeed in their own environments.



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