



What are the Signs of Apraxia?

Apraxia is a neurological disorder that affects the brain pathways involved in planning the sequence of movements that are required in producing motor movement. This commonly affects the person's speech and movement. Additionally, according to [Autism Speaks](#), Apraxia commonly affects individuals with Autism, as 65% of individuals with Autism have Apraxia.

Purposeful Movement

The main sign of apraxia is the inability to make voluntary movements even though the individual has the physical ability and understanding to do so. If someone has apraxia, they may have difficulty with:

- Precise pointing with the finger
- Facial movements, such as winking or smiling on demand
- Moving the eyes purposefully
- Holding a tool, such as a pencil
- Carrying out complicated motor movements, like brushing teeth, filling up a water bottle, making the bed, etc.
- Stopping a motor task, like stopping after running
- Starting a motor task, like getting out of the car on demand
- Mirroring other people's body movements, like touching the nose, raising their hand, etc.
- Drawing simple designs

Speech

Apraxia affects speech. When someone has apraxia, their brain knows what it wants to say, but is unable to properly plan and sequence the required speech movements. Some of the common signs are:

- Very little babbling (in infants)
- Scripting, such as frequently repeating lines from movies and shows
- Uses the same sounds with little variety
- Losing the ability to say a word that they learned
- Omitting sounds within words (For example, "milk" sounds like "ilk," "good" sounds like "ood," "morning" sounds like "noning.")
- Able to say words at sometimes, and not others
- Stuttering
- Slowly says words
- Says one word while meaning to say another word. For example, instead of saying, "Sue," the individual says "soup."

- Cannot say certain sounds
- Unable to use the same vocabulary as their same-aged peers

Apraxia can vary in severity, and not all individuals will exhibit all of these signs. A comprehensive evaluation is necessary for an accurate diagnosis of apraxia.

Additionally, apraxia does not reflect a lack of intelligence. It simply is how the person's brain is wired. And while there is no "cure" for apraxia, with therapies and support, the individual's speaking skills might improve over time. If you suspect your child has apraxia, early intervention is vital. Additionally, students with apraxia may be eligible for accommodations through an IEP or 504 plan.

For assistance or questions about these processes, contact hello@loveyourschool.org. Additionally, if you have further inquiries, reach out to us. We can provide information on evaluations to see if your child has dyslexia, school options, and programs like the [Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account](#) program, which offers additional funds for students to support their education.

Resources:

[Apraxia Kids AZ Support Group](#)

[Apraxia IEP Resource Guide - Apraxia Kids](#)

[Speaking of Apraxia: A Parent's Guide to Childhood Apraxia of Speech](#)

[Guide to Apraxia of Speech \(Art of Special Needs Parenting™ Series\)](#)

[Apraxia: The Cognitive side of motor control](#)

[Apraxia of Speech - Autism Speaks](#)

[Therapeutic and Communication Options for Speech Issues in Autism - TACA](#)

[Let's Talk about Childhood Apraxia of Speech - AmeriDisability](#)

[Autism & Childhood Apraxia of Speech: From Pre-verbal to Sentences](#)