

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation was to determine if a multi-modal intervention approach would increase verbal production for childhood apraxia of speech (CAS). CAS is a complex communication disorder with limited research on the diagnosis criteria and little empirical data that supports or refutes the outcome of current suggested intervention techniques (Agin, Geng, & Nicholl, 2004). Following Jean Ayres (1979) Pyramid Model of Development, a subject with apraxia must develop gross motor and fine motor skills before, or in concurrence with, the finest motor skills of speech for verbal production to be successful. A multi-modal intervention approach to childhood apraxia of speech uniquely targets gross motor skills, oral motor awareness, verbal production, and fine motor skills as a single intervention. Individually, the targeted modes have been effective with children who have demonstrated deficits similar to childhood apraxia of speech. The effectiveness of the multi-modal intervention approach has not been demonstrated.

The subject was a 4-year, 3-month-old Caucasian female diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Criteria also included no hearing problems and no prior involvement in a multi-modal intervention approach.

Fifteen intervention sessions using a multi-modal approach were completed in the subject's home environment. Pre and posttests, using the Preschool Language Scale, Fourth Edition (PLS-4) (Zimmerman, Steiner, & Pond, 2002), were administered to evaluate improvement.

The results indicated that the multi-modal intervention approach was an effective intervention procedure for the treatment of childhood apraxia of speech. Further investigation should be conducted to validate these findings.