

Introduction

The young child with speech impairments can present a special challenge to the speech-language pathologist. *Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool* is designed for the child who:

- has unintelligible speech
- is nonverbal or has limited verbal output with age-appropriate receptive language skills
- has inconsistent error patterns, even with repetitions of the same word
- doesn't show progress using traditional articulation or phonology approaches
- demonstrates subtle or more evident motor-planning deficits for speech
- demonstrates difficulty sequencing sounds to form syllables and words
- progresses slowly and doesn't carry over learned speech skills
- may be intelligible at the word level, but loses intelligibility at the sentence level
- has delays in development of speech and expressive language
- has increased errors when using complex phonetic combinations
- has a diagnosis of developmental verbal apraxia (DVA)

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool was developed for the preschool child. By using the tips under each goal and the Important Strategies, you can easily adapt this program for preschool children with developmental delays.

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool emphasizes developing sound and syllable sequencing skills and closed syllables in increasingly complex tasks. Individual phonemes are targeted, but should be incorporated into syllables and words as soon as possible.

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool is a systematic program for teaching:

- isolated sounds
- multisyllabic words
- syllable productions
- phrases and sentences
- syllable sequencing
- consonant blend words
- syllable closure

Because each child is different, and *Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool* is a systematic program, it's important to do a full diagnostic evaluation to determine where to begin and how to progress. An examination of oral-motor skills should include inspection of the oral mechanism at rest, during eating, during imitation, during speech, and oral-tactile sensitivity.

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool uses preschool-level vocabulary, experiences, and activities to make speech practice more meaningful and fun for the child. Most lessons provide a predictable routine which helps lessen sensory-motor and linguistic overload for the child.

Components

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool has a Therapy Manual and a Materials Book that follow a fun, systematic program for preschool children.

The Therapy Manual contains:

- *Goals and Objectives*
- *Important Strategies* — These strategies give valuable information and explanations of techniques. Read these strategies thoroughly before beginning the program, and then refer to them from time to time.
- *Tips* — Includes troubleshooting techniques and additional practice of the skills introduced in each objective.
- *Action Activities* — Teach the objectives using gross or fine motor movements or art to engage the child and to facilitate speech. Many of these activities have corresponding activity sheets in the Materials Book.
- *Activities* — The activities explain the steps for using the matching activity sheets in the Materials Book.
- *Parent Progress Sheet* — This timesaver lets parents know about present therapy objectives.
- *Parent Interview Form* — This form will help you gain important information about the child.
- *Communication Observation Form* — This form allows you to gather information about the child's communication skills.
- *Hand Signal Descriptions and Pictures of Hand Signals*
- *Therapy Tracking Sheet*
- *Consonant Inventory* — Helps you record which consonants the child can say in isolation or in words, stimulability for the sounds, and what cues were needed to elicit correct production.
- *Lesson Plan*
- *Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (CVC) Word Lists*
- *CVC Word Pictures* — The CVC word pictures will help you teach one-syllable words through pictures.
- *Multisyllabic Word Lists and Pictures*
- *Phrase and Sentence List*
- *Suggested Target Words* — This list provides target words for some of the Sound Group activity pages.

The Materials Book contains:

- *Vowel Turtles* — These will help you teach vowel sounds.
- *Sound Picture Cards* — These will help you teach the consonant sounds and hand signals.
- *Action Activity Sheets* — These activities use gross or fine motor movements or art to facilitate speech.
- *Activity Sheets* — Activity sheets and art activities with a preschool theme are provided for each objective. Parent-helper instructions are included on each sheet.
- *References*

Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool uses a multisensory approach. Turtles are the unifying symbol in the program as they signify slow, easy speech and steady progress. Children will love practicing their speech with Tyler Turtle and his friends. Family members will feel a part of the therapy program. You'll all have fun with the wide variety of activities in *Easy Does It for Apraxia—Preschool*.

Robin and Catherine