Apraxia and Aphasia

APRAXIA OF SPEECH

- An impairment in the ability to plan or program the motor commands necessary for directing movements for normal speech production.
- Occurs frequently as a secondary diagnosis in people with left dominant hemisphere lesions whose primary communication disorder is aphasia.
- Prosody, or the flow of speech, is also affected.

(Duffy, 2005)
APHASIA

- A multi modal language impairment with interpreting and formulating language symbols disproportionate to other intellectual functions.
  
  (Wertz, 1985)

- The following areas can be affected:
  - Spontaneous speech
  - Confrontation naming
  - Auditory comprehension
  - Repetition
  - Reading
  - Writing

Differential Diagnosis

**Apraxia** vs. **Phonemic Paraphasia**

- Inability to increase rate and maintain phonemic integrity.
  - Trying to repair an error does not lead closer to the target.
  - The location of errors is consistent over multiple trials.

- Variable ability to increase rate and maintain phonemic integrity.
  - Trying to repair an error leads closer to the target.
  - The location of errors is not consistent over multiple trials.

(McNeil et al. 1997)
CHRISTINE’S VERBAL RESPONSE

“I mean wow, he and she, like, can like hear, she can, she here, she (gestured waving)”

TREATMENT

DIANE WISINSKI, MA CCC/SLP
Phoneme

- Smallest unit of sound
- Speech is formed by combining phonemes into words.
- Each speech sound has its own place, manner and production.
- /t/, /d/ are front sounds
- /p/, /b/ are lip sounds
- Some sounds have voicing
- Some sounds can be prolonged.

HOW MANY SPEECH SOUNDS?

- How many speech sounds in the word apple?
- How many speech sounds are in the word thirsty?
- How many speech sounds are in the word black?
INITIAL TREATMENT

- Teaching place manner and production of vowels and consonant sounds.
- For example, /f/...put your teeth on your bottom lip and blow air out.
- For example, /s/...tongue is behind the teeth, push air out to make a “snake sound”

Additional tasks

Rote sentences
- I want....
- I need.....
- I am.....

Use of gestures as an aid in recall

Saying her name! /k/ was a difficult sound for her
Therapy Tasks

INCREASING AWARENESS OF PERSEVERATION
INSTRUCTION IN SLOW RATE OF SPEECH
INSTRUCTION IN NEED TO WATCH THERAPIST AND MIRROR MOUTH MOVEMENTS
INSTRUCTION IN PHONEME BY PHONEME WORD PRODUCTION

NEW WAY OF SPELLING!

- Models were written to help with slow easy speech.
- For example..
  - AMBULANCE = AM- BEU – LINS
  - HOSPITAL = HOSS-PIT-UL
  - SQUAD = SS- KWAHD
  - CONDITIONER = CON-DISH-IN-ER
OTHER THERAPY TASKS

- Following written directions
- Reading aloud
- Writing to dictation
- Copying recipes, stories from magazines
- Word recall for aphasia i.e. categorizing.

Questions?
References