Benefits of AAC for Individuals with Childhood Apraxia of Speech

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a motor speech disorder affecting an individual's ability to plan and coordinate movements needed for speech production.

For children with CAS, high-tech augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices can play an essential role alongside structured, focused speech therapy. While therapy focuses on improving motor planning, AAC devices offer children a reliable way to communicate as they develop their speech skills.

The Value of High-Tech AAC Devices

Bridges the Communication Gap

For children with CAS, the inability to communicate effectively can lead to frustration. AAC devices help bridge this gap by providing an alternate method for sharing needs and ideas. AAC devices ensure individuals are understood across various contexts and communication partners.

Enhances Language Development

Rather than hindering spoken language, AAC devices often enhance it by creating increased opportunities for positive communication experiences, encouraging interaction, fostering inclusion, and building confidence. Research shows speech-generating devices can facilitate language development and academic success (Lüke, 2016).

Supports Social Interaction

AAC devices enable children to initiate and maintain conversations, repair communication breakdowns, and participate more fully with various communication partners (Cumley & Swanson, 2009).

Cumley, G., & Swanson, S. (1999). Augmentative and alternative communication options for children with developmental apraxia of speech: three case studies. Augmentative and Alternative Communication, 15(2), 110–125. https://doi.org/10.1080/07434619912331278615

Lüke C. (2016). Impact of speech-generating devices on the language development of a child with childhood apraxia of speech: a case study. Disability and rehabilitation. Assistive technology, 11(1), 80–88. https://doi.org/10.3109/17483107.2014.913715