

# DYSPRAXIA

## What Is Dyspraxia?

- Dyspraxia is a neurologically based developmental disability which is present from birth
- Dyspraxia is a motor planning disorder, not a muscular deficit. A child knows what they want their body to do but can't get their body to do it.
- There are three (3) types of Developmental Dyspraxia - Oral, Verbal and Motor.
- A child with Dyspraxia can have one or a combination of all three types of Dyspraxia and in varying degrees of severity
- Dyspraxia is a hidden handicap.
- Children with this disability appear the same as any other child. It is only when a skill is performed that the disability is noticeable.
- Dyspraxia is believed to be an immaturity of parts of the motor cortex (area of the brain) that prevents messages from being properly transmitted to the body.
- Dyspraxia affects up to 10% of the population with approximately 70% of those affected being boys.
- Dyspraxia does not impact on intelligence, children with Dyspraxia have average or above average intelligence
- Dyspraxia can impact on behaviour and social skills
- Dyspraxia is a specific learning disability

## What is Oral Dyspraxia?

Oral dyspraxia is a difficulty with planning and executing non-speech sounds, such as blowing, sucking or individual tongue/lip movements. This may indirectly affect speech and/or swallowing skills. A child with Oral Dyspraxia may dribble profusely, have difficulty licking an ice-cream and may have a preference for either soft or hard textured foods.

## What is Verbal Dyspraxia?

Verbal Dyspraxia is a speech disorder that affects the programming, sequencing and initiating of movements required to make speech sounds.

### ***Children with Verbal Dyspraxia may:***

- Display highly unintelligible speech
- Simplify words eg. "bur" for "burger"
- Have inconsistent speech patterns
- Move sounds in a word eg. "tobe" for "boat"
- Exhibit "lost" or searching movements of the tongue and lips as they endeavour to find the position to make a sound
- Have delayed expressive language
- Adopt a complex gesture system to aid communication skills
- Have difficulty with sequencing words, and sounds in words eg. "Pataka"

# DYSPRAXIA CONTINUED

## What is Motor Dyspraxia?

Motor Dyspraxia is a difficulty in planning, sequencing and then executing the correct movement to perform age appropriate skills in a smooth and coordinated manner at will or on command.

### **Children with Motor Dyspraxia may have difficulty with:**

- Learning a new skill
- Coordinated movement
- Handwriting
- Consistent performance
- Age appropriate skills

- Generalising learnt skills
- Timing and rhythm
- Learning rules
- Responding quickly
- Spatial organisation
- Problem solving
- Using appropriate cues
- Analysing what is needed for task performance
- Preparing for the next stage in task performance

### *Reference:*

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