

# Therapy Suggestions

When a client first comes to you, you have to assess the severity of his apraxia and probable accompanying aphasia before initiating therapy. A client may be primarily nonverbal due to the apraxia (or due to global aphasia), or he may exhibit varying degrees of difficulty. Before beginning therapy, evaluate the apraxia and/or aphasia with one or more of the many assessments on the market. Once you determine the levels of severity, the following suggestions will help you get started with the exercises in this book.

## Severe Apraxia

(The client is primarily nonverbal and is unable to imitate words.)

1. Begin with attempts to have the client imitate the monosyllabic /m/ words on page 16. It's frequently helpful to initially accompany the productions with melody. Encourage all approximations. If two correct words are produced, pair them together. Focus on /m/ until the client achieves approximately 80% accuracy. Then, progress to /p/, /b/, /w/, and so on. Cue the client to watch you at all times. Do not focus on more than one phoneme model per session.
2. If a client is unsuccessful in following your models, practice with gross oral-motor movements, like mouth opening, mouth closing, and progressing to lip pursing. Once the client can imitate lip pursing, attempt to have him imitate your humming during lip pursing. Progress to /m/ words.
3. Couple monosyllabic words together and progress to the first 10 /m/ sentences on page 17, or whatever phoneme you're working on. Begin with the most visible phonemes.
4. Model relaxed body posture and effortless productions. If the client increases effort, convey the necessary changes.
5. Attempt melodic production of the conversational sentences beginning on page 143. Then, practice without the melody. As skills improve, progress to Increasing Sentences Length beginning on page 156.

## Moderate and Mild Apraxia

1. Begin the session with practice of a specific phoneme. Depending on the client's ability, focus on the monosyllabic words and progress to the multisyllabic words. Help the client warm up on a few of the shorter target sentences and progress to the longer, more difficult sentences.
2. Have the client imitate one or two columns of rhyming words.
3. Continue practice by having the client imitate several of the *Increasing Sentence Length* exercises.
4. Drill with five groups of compound words.

## **/dr/**

drab	drainage	drawing room
draft	drafty	dragonfly
drag	dragon	dramatic
droop	drama	dramatize
drain	drastic	drapery
drank	drawback	dreariness
drip	drawer	dressmaker
dread	drawbridge	drippiest
draw	dreadful	drastically
dream	dressing	dreadfulness
drawn	dreamy	draftiness
dredge	dresser	dreaminess
dress	dribble	dribbling
drench	drummer	drowsiness
drew	drier	driving range
drift	driftwood	dressing gown
drill	driver	dry cleaning
drink	drizzle	dress rehearsal
drop	droopy	dreadfully
drive	dropping	drawbridges
drone	druggist	draftsperson
drought	drugstore	drag racing
drove	drumstick	dramatization
drum	dryer	dreamiest
dry	dry clean	driver's seat

## Monosyllabic Words, *continued*

teeth	hit	lone
dime	scene	we
mail	beach	end
part	born	mouth
eat	sound	go
and	do	of
can	fast	sand
piece	sit	fight
say	bus	look
lamp	here	hair
how	fair	now
help	pick	come
five	found	judge
be	bye	did
low	hat	that
eight	are	he
tax	home	work
niece	may	down
near	pine	hard
safe	cave	this
came	purse	watch
taste	seal	pan
on	sing	bone
bag	bust	yours
their	walk	life
loop	pear	long
tooth	no	sock
shot	which	what

## **Emotions, *continued***

Say each sentence in a way that portrays the emotions listed in parentheses.

1. (bored)  
This guy has been talking forever. I wonder when he'll stop.
2. (worried, troubled)  
They said they were going to call at six and it's now eight.
3. (timid, shy, unsure)  
I really don't think I can do what you are asking of me.
4. (fascinated, entranced)  
I find what you are telling me to be very interesting.
5. (lonely)  
The weekend seems so long when I don't have anything planned.
6. (friendly)  
It's so nice to meet you. I hope we can get together sometime.
7. (itchy)  
I'm going stir crazy. I need to take a walk.
8. (ill, sick)  
I'm really not feeling well today.
9. (proud)  
My daughter made the honor roll this term.
10. (relieved)  
I'm so glad that test is finally over.