
Appendix 3: Articulograms

Articulograms are a system of simple diagrammatic forms, representing articulatory features (e.g. voice, place, manner and lip posture), which frequently require work for children with dyspraxic difficulties. These can be used alongside consistent verbal cues to support work on particular aspects of articulation, at oro-motor, single sound and word levels.

The articulograms and verbal cues are designed to provide the child with information about how to articulate a particular feature. For example, the child is introduced to the articulogram and told he needs to make a "puff of air" to produce the voiceless plosives.

Consonant articulograms

The consonant articulograms were originally published by Stephens and Elton (1986) and are reproduced in this volume with the permission of Hilary Stephens, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Nuffield Speech and Language Unit.

These can be combined to specify all consonants, apart from: /r/, /θ/ and /ð/.

The consonant articulograms are depicted below and described in terms of: feature specified, verbal cues and relevant phonemes.

Vowel articulograms

A set of seven lip shapes has been added to cue lip/jaw postures for vowels and for the glides /w/ and /j/. A sequence of two articulograms is used to specify diphthongs and glides.

These can be combined with verbal cues for vowel length and tongue posture to provide a framework for the articulation of a standard range of vowels. Both articulograms and verbal cues should be modified as required to take account of regional variations in vowel production.

Fine-tuning of vowel quality (i.e. lip, jaw and tongue postures) is achieved through modelling and practice.

The vowel articulograms are depicted below and described in terms of feature specified, verbal cues and relevant phonemes.

The articulograms are referred to throughout Appendix 4: Eliciting single sounds in isolation.

References

Stephens, H. and Elton, M. (1986) Description of Systematic Use of Articulograms. *College of Speech and Language Therapists Bulletin*: December.