

Transition from single sounds to CV and VC words

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At this stage, motor programs for consonants and vowels, established at single sound level and practised in C + V and V + C sequences, are combined to form CV or VC syllables and given linguistic meaning as CV or VC words.

Making the transition from single sounds to CV syllables (C + V = CV) can be a very difficult process for children with developmental verbal dyspraxia as it involves the creation of new motor programs (i.e. the process of motor programming) – a core difficulty in dyspraxia.

Combining motor programs, without the “gap” left earlier in sequencing tasks, involves modifying the two existing programs so that they join smoothly. Children may have difficulty combining sounds at all to begin with, or may need help just with particular sounds or groups of sounds.

Therapy

- Once the child can produce “artificial” C + V sequences, C+V=CV worksheets can be attempted. These should be modelled first by the therapist with demonstration/explanation that the two sounds are to be joined to make the word. Utilise the joining presentations e.g. two jigsaw pieces to explain this to the child. The child can then attempt this himself. If his production of the CV word reverts to his own motor program, nonsense syllables should be practised as an intermediate stage (Use consonant and vowel lottos and cards).

