



## Ten DAS Tips for Parents

★ IN A NUTSHELL★

SOCIALLY SPEAKING LLC

### TEN SPEECH THERAPY TIPS FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH DAS (DEVELOPMENTAL APRAXIA OF SPEECH)

By Penina Rybak MA/CCC-SLP, TSHH, Speech-Language Pathologist

1. Pretend to “misunderstand” or “ignore” you child *sometimes*, when he/she is talking, so that child has to repeat himself/herself.
2. Encourage your child to speak slowly, with eye contact.
3. Encourage your child to repeat himself/herself verbally if misunderstood, and make sure your facial expression reflects confusion.
4. Create situations where things don't immediately go your child's way (ex: putting a favorite toy out of reach etc.), so that the child can practice problem solving and requesting.
5. It is OK to use pictures and signing/gestures in conjunction with talking to facilitate your child's language development.
6. Practice doing activities in front of a mirror, such as horn blowing, straw drinking, and blowing bubbles etc., so that your child increases awareness of what the mouth “is all about”.
7. Monitor your child's *health*, as congestion levels can physically interfere with progress.
8. Please cancel your child's therapy session if he/she is sick; it will be that much harder to *physically* work on articulation skills.
9. Please do the assigned homework **daily**, for 5 minutes at a time, at least 3 times a day, to help make child's responses more “automatic”.
10. Make sure to let your child know you understand or do not understand what he/she just said, and if in doubt, ask your child specific questions, requiring a *yes or no* answer, (NOT open ended questions) to help clarify what was misunderstood.

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