



11030-101 Raven Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27614

Phone: 919-844-6611

PROMPT Therapy

What is PROMPT therapy?

Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets (PROMPT) is a tactually grounded sensori-motor and cognitive-linguistic approach and technique for treating motor speech disorders in children (and adults). It can only be completed by a trained and/or certified therapist due to the specific process that must be followed for evaluation and treatment planning and the intricacies that are required for implementation.

How is PROMPT therapy different from traditional articulation or phonological therapy approaches?

During a traditional speech sound evaluation, sound errors are identified through standardized assessments and conversational speech samples. Therapy targets are then selected based upon developmental norms for the typical emergence and mastery of speech sounds. Children are instructed how to modify their speech errors with visual support, models, and perhaps some surface level tactile cues for individual targets.

The PROMPT philosophy revolutionizes the methodology for evaluation and treatment planning. PROMPT uses a Systems Analysis Observation (SAO) to systematically evaluate the full motor speech system and a Motor Speech Assessment (MSA) to identify the levels and stages where problems occur. The MSA considers tone (body and facial), phonatory control (breath support), mandibular control (jaw movement), labio-facial control (movement of the lips and cheeks in the horizontal plane), lingual control (tongue movement from front to back and in the vertical plane), sequenced movements of the articulators (between the horizontal and vertical planes), and prosody (timing). The three primary areas of need are identified from the MSA. Based upon the areas of need, specific motor phoneme targets are selected to address the motor goals, and the motor speech targets are used to generate target syllables and words to correct the disordered motor speech patterns. In therapy, the PROMPT therapist provides active tactile-kinesthetic-proprioceptive input to the child's articulators across all sounds in a word and/or phrase to increase the accuracy of verbal output. PROMPTS are completed on the face, jaw, and mylohyoid muscle (running under the chin toward the neck) to provide cues related to the most salient information of a sound including the level of muscle contraction needed, direction of movement, amount of movement required, place of articulation, and timing. On-line shaping of the motor system can be utilized within the 4 different levels of PROMPT to provide more support and input as needed for each child. The MSA is constantly being revisited throughout the therapy process to determine the stages of greatest need and adjust the motor phoneme targets to meet the needs of a developing speech system.

Who is appropriate for PROMPT therapy?

The only precursor to initiating a PROMPT program is that a child has intent to communicate. PROMPT has been used with children with a wide range of diagnoses including apraxia of speech, Cerebral Palsy, autism spectrum disorders, hearing impairment, repaired cleft lip and palate, aphasia, dysarthria, and motor speech disorders. PROMPT can be used with a wide range of skill sets from children who are non-verbal and may be using augmentative and alternative communication systems to children with mild articulation delays. PROMPT allows for treatment at the single phoneme (sound) level through words, phrases, and sentences.

Therapy Frequency and Duration:

The course of treatment will vary depending on each individual. PROMPT may be needed for as short as a 3 month period to a 3 year span. As with any treatment, the more intensive the frequency, the greater the gains, so therapy is recommended at least 1x/week but ideally twice a week if feasible, especially since PROMPT can only be performed by a trained therapist. Home programs will be provided as appropriate, but the actual PROMPTing can only be carried out by a trained professional.

Bridging Speech & Language Needs:

Although PROMPT is considered a treatment technique for motor speech disorders, therapy is also highly language based. The syllables and words that are formulated for each patient are matched to a child's cognitive age and are integrated into therapy sessions in a play-based context, which allows for children to develop vocabulary and concepts while simultaneously reprogramming the motor speech system.

For more information on PROMPT, email Melissa @ACTWC.com and/or visit the PROMPT Institute website at <http://www.promptinstitute.com>.