

St. Louis Children's Hospital Is Excited To Offer a Jennie Bjorem Course



Childhood Apraxia of Speech: Assessment, Diagnosis, & Treatment

Sept. 12 | 8:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

St. Louis Children's Hospital Specialty Care Center–West County

13001 N. Outer 40 Road, Town & Country, MO 63017

This course is approved for 0.6 ASHA CEUs

Description

Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) can be difficult to identify and even harder to treat without a clear, systematic process. In this practical, high-energy, six-hour course, Jennie Bjorem guides participants through defining and differentiating CAS from childhood dysarthria and motor speech delay, while building clinical confidence in assessment and intervention. Filled with real therapy videos to support learning and application, participants will learn how to conduct an informal dynamic motor speech assessment, identify discriminative versus non-discriminative characteristics of CAS, and analyze assessment data with clarity. An overview of coarticulation is included, emphasizing how movement sequences and sound transitions support accurate motor planning and programming.

Attendees will explore evidence-based, play-centered treatment approaches rooted in movement and coarticulation principles. Through interactive learning, including a CAS simulation, participants will actively experience how motor planning challenges impact performance and how cueing and practice variables influence outcomes. Clinicians will leave empowered to select meaningful, functional targets using the VITAL model, apply DTTC cueing hierarchies effectively, and design therapy plans grounded in the principles of motor learning. Emphasis is placed on high-repetition, feedback-informed practice delivered through motivating, and play-based intervention.

This course bridges research and real-world clinical application, ensuring every SLP walks away with clear tools, renewed confidence, and practical strategies to make measurable progress with children diagnosed with CAS.

Engaging. Practical. Research-driven. High energy. You will not leave bored; you will leave ready to treat.

Target Audience

Speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and graduate students

Objectives

Participants will:

- Define CAS using clear, family friendly language to support effective communication with caregivers and interdisciplinary teams.
- Differentiate CAS from other speech sound disorders by identifying hallmark motor planning and programming characteristics that distinguish it from dysarthria, phonological, or articulation disorders.
- Apply diagnostic criteria by conducting and interpreting an informal dynamic motor speech assessment, demonstrating understanding of how to observe and document key clinical markers necessary for a CAS diagnosis.
- Explain the purpose of the cueing hierarchy in dynamic temporal and tactile cueing (DTTC) and identify appropriate cueing levels based on a child's performance.
- Describe the core components of the VITAL model for target selection in childhood apraxia of speech.
- Apply the ABCD goal-writing framework to write at least one motor-based speech goal for a child with CAS that reflects principles of motor learning and supports generalization. (Case, Caspari, Aggarwal, and Stoeckel, 2024)
- Identify key principles of motor learning relevant to CAS intervention and select at least two strategies to support motor learning during therapy activities.

Agenda	
8:15–8:45 a.m.	<i>Check-in</i>
9–10 a.m.	Four Motor Speech Classifications, Characteristic Identification Practice
10–10:15 a.m.	<i>Morning break</i>
10:15 a.m.–noon	Informal Assessment and Diagnosis
Noon–1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1–2:30 p.m.	Target Selection, CAS Approaches with a Special Focus on DTTC, Principles of Motor Learning, Cueing Techniques
2:30–2:45 p.m.	<i>Afternoon break</i>
2:45–4:30 p.m.	Apraxia Intervention Tips and Tricks, Literacy, Case Study

Satisfactory completion requirements

Participants must sign in upon arrival as well as after breaks, attend the entire session, and complete an intent-to-change statement on the post-presentation survey to receive credit.

Speaker

Jennie Bjorem is a highly respected pediatric speech-language pathologist with over 25 years of experience and a recognized international expert in CAS. As the founder and CEO of Bjorem Speech® Publications, she leads a dynamic team dedicated to creating inclusive, evidence-based therapy materials that help children feel seen, supported, and successful.

Jennie is also the president of the Bjorem & Bolles Apraxia Education Initiative, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and training center based in Parker, Colorado. This groundbreaking initiative is focused on equipping speech-language pathologists with the tools and confidence needed to assess, diagnose, and treat CAS through accessible, hands-on education.

An engaging and sought-after public speaker, Jennie delivers impactful presentations across the U.S. and internationally. Her trainings are known for their practicality, interactivity, and deep clinical insight, always rooted in current research

and her own real-world experience. Jennie maintains a small caseload of children with CAS, ensuring her work remains grounded in the day-to-day realities families face.

With a passion for innovation, inclusivity, and professional collaboration, Jennie continues to push the field forward, bringing fresh ideas, joyful learning, and a deep commitment to every child's communication journey.

Financial disclosures: Jennie is receiving a speaking fee from St. Louis Children's Hospital for her presentation.

Non-financial disclosures: Jennie is the cofounder of the Bjorem and Bolles Apraxia Education Initiative Foundation.

Any course handouts will be made available to registrants electronically. Registrants can choose to print their own handouts before or after the course.

Contact

Questions regarding this conference may be directed to:
Rebecca Pendino at rebecca.pendino@bjc.org.

Fees

External: \$200

BJC employees: \$100

Maximum number of registrants: 40

Cancellations

Cancellations are accepted up to 14 days before the start of the class minus, a \$75 administrative fee.

Please note

Conference room temperature may vary, so please dress in layers for comfort.

Parking

Ample parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building.

Registration



Non-BJC registration

Cost: \$200



BJC team member registration

Cost: \$100



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

St. Louis Children's Hospital

Intermediate Level

0.6 ASHA CEUs

