

Using MLG and AAC to Improve Speech Production in
Profound Apraxia: A Case Example
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We utilized a two-pronged treatment approach with a 50-year-old client who presented with profound apraxia of speech and nonfluent aphasia. When he began the treatment protocol, he was 4 years post onset a series of 3 left cerebrovascular accidents. Evaluation revealed that his verbal output was limited to phonation on command and imitation of /ah/ and /oh/. We implemented a hierarchical motor learning guided (MLG) approach. In addition we helped him obtain and use appropriate augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technology to facilitate MLG training. Through weekly sessions in the clinic, clinicians used the MLG approach, which manipulates aspects of practice and feedback to help the client acquire and retain targeted words. Between weekly sessions, the client used the voice-output AAC device at home for 30 minutes daily as a speech modeling tool to practice targeted words. To date, he has participated in 3 cycles of this treatment protocol. He has made gains in acquiring and using treatment targets, as well as in producing untreated probes. The combination of treatment approaches has resulted in changes in speech production in a client with profound apraxia who had previously experienced limited success with more traditional apraxia treatment approaches.