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★ EDUCATION SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Virtually Unstoppable Apraxia Kids Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020
August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

Apraxia Kids®



<https://www.apraxia-kids.org/>



Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Professional Advisory Council, and dedicated staff, I am pleased to share our Annual Report, which highlights our successes of this past year.

At the beginning of 2020, Apraxia Kids® anticipated many ways to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. We had high expectations beginning with Awareness Month, continuing with our Research Symposium and National Conference, followed by our Intensive Training Institute, and wrapping up the year with our Walk for Apraxia® events. Instead, we were left adjusting almost everything to a virtual platform.

While navigating these unprecedented times, we quickly learned the apraxia community needed us more than ever. We had to continue to move forward by providing the same level of support we have in the past, while adapting to new mediums. Our new goal was to be **Virtually Unstoppable!**

This past year, we worked harder than ever to develop new resources to support those working from home, homeschooling, virtual learning, providing or participating in teletherapy, and so much more. Our website now has over 20 hours of new, free educational content for both families and professionals. We are promoting a record number of world-wide, ongoing research projects that are seeking participants to aid in acquiring a larger evidence base around apraxia of speech, as well as highlighting brand-new research and scholarly articles for everyone to access.

After celebrating 66 successful Walk for Apraxia events in 2019, this year created a new set of challenges since the pandemic forced us to transition to virtual experiences. Despite the changes, more than 6,000 participants joined us this year as Virtual Walkers to raise awareness and funding.

Looking to the future, we will continue to develop ways to engage our community both in person and in a virtual setting. We remain committed to educating our community, supporting our families, advocating for our mission, and sustaining research.

Apraxia Kids is dedicated to creating and preserving a healthy apraxia community because it is the only way we can ensure that every child has a chance to find their voice.

We remain Virtually Unstoppable!

Thank you for your continued commitment to our organization.

Angela Grimm
Executive Director



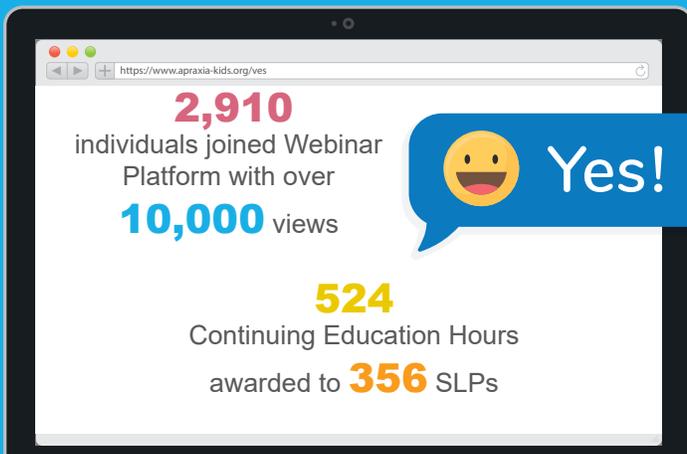
https://www.apraxia-kids.org/education



Education

Since our first National Conference in 2004, Apraxia Kids has hosted an annual conference bringing together our parent and professional community to learn from the leading experts in childhood apraxia of speech (CAS), early childhood development, education, advocacy, and so much more. Nevertheless, the pandemic required us to reconsider in-person experiences. Cancelling our 2020 National Conference and postponing our Research Symposium was a decision not taken lightly.

Therefore, by working together with our National Conference speakers and Professional Advisory Council, the **Virtual Education Series** was created providing **21 hours** of live and pre-recorded sessions, all to our community at no cost. Topics included comorbidities, therapy, and a variety of other valuable and relevant subjects. Since July, this content has been viewed **53,000** times and it remains available on our website.



In addition, an online training module was developed for school-based Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP), providing foundational education free of charge to school districts. Expanding education on childhood apraxia of speech in the school setting is critical with so many children only receiving speech therapy at school.

As we look ahead to the 2021 National Conference with the hope of bringing our community together in person in Texas, we know a virtual option is necessary so that we can expand our education efforts to a broader audience. Our 2021 National Conference will have both an in-person and virtual component, providing new options for those who wish to attend.





https://www.apraxia-kids.org/support



SUPPORT

Apraxia Kids is committed to providing support to our families and professional community as they navigate their apraxia journey. The foundation of our organization is our online community. Apraxia Kids, with the help of volunteers, facilitates a variety of specialized and local online support groups. Through these groups, our goal is to bridge conversation and engagement not only amongst community members, but with Apraxia Kids as we continue to share evidence-based information.

Throughout this past year, we found new ways to engage our community by creating new resources as their needs changed drastically.

Our new State Resource Guides provide information on local speech clinics and SLPs, education and schooling, early intervention, support services, and a plethora of other localized content. As we continue to grow these resources, our community also has the ability to share local support services they have found to be useful with us to be included in their State Resource Guide.

Homeschooling resources were also developed because many of our parents and guardians found themselves being full-time, at-home teachers this year.

Our Speech-Language Pathologist Directory continued to expand this past year, as well. Because of this service, families can find therapists with a reasonable level of experience and skill in evaluating children with apraxia of speech close to where they live.



Apraxia Kids® offers **54** online support groups with over **51,000** members.

This year, our directory has grown to **575** Speech-Language Pathologists who have shown an understanding of and experience in treating children with apraxia of speech.



Find us on:



Facebook: @ApraxiaKIDS Twitter: @Apraxia_KIDS Instagram: @apraxiakids
Pinterest: @apraxiakids LinkedIn: Apraxia Kids YouTube: Apraxia Kids





https://www.apraxia-kids.org/community



Apraxia Awareness

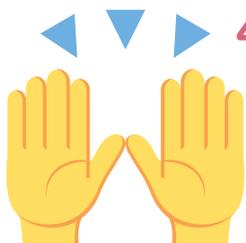
Working collectively with our volunteers, Apraxia Kids continues to spread awareness of our organization to those impacted by childhood apraxia of speech. While the understanding of CAS has come a long way since our inception in 2000, it is still a little-known disorder that affects over 300,000 children across the U.S. Apraxia Kids continually works to bring apraxia awareness into the light so that every newly diagnosed family may have an easier journey to find answers and gain the support necessary for successful treatment of childhood apraxia of speech.

This past year, we developed awareness kits for our Be the Voice platform, giving our families and professional community tools to raise awareness in their local community, place of employment, and school.



Awareness Month

In May 2020, our community united once again for Apraxia Awareness Month by spreading awareness, wearing blue, and advocating for our mission.



With their help:

42 States,
6 Provinces in Canada, **1,717** Cities, **88** Counties, and **26** Municipalities received proclamations. In addition, **\$72,000** was raised during Apraxia Awareness month supporting our mission.

In 2019
66 North American Walks
12,500 Participants
1,231 Apraxia Stars

Walk for Apraxia

The Walk for Apraxia is our largest fundraiser supporting children with childhood apraxia of speech. In 2019, our apraxia community walked with us across 35 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces spreading awareness and raising \$1.1 million to sustain the programs and services of Apraxia Kids.

In 2020, the Walk for Apraxia experience looked a little different as virtual events were planned across 87 communities. Despite this change, participants once again rallied, from the comfort of their own environment to make our apraxia community tighter, stronger, and ready for the road ahead.

As always, whether we are together in person or celebrating virtually, the Walk for Apraxia remains critical to bringing our apraxia community together.



Impact of Your Donation



Our Vision

A world where every child with apraxia of speech reaches their highest communication potential. Every child deserves a voice.

Our Mission

Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech by educating professionals and families; facilitating community engagement and outreach; and investing in the future through advocacy and research.

Our Staff

Angela Grimm, *Executive Director*
Laura Moorer, MA, CCC-SLP, *Vice President of Programs*
Earnie Sotirokos, *Director of Digital Strategy*
Carly McNeely, *Walk Manager*

Amanda Stein, *Program Manager*
Allison Breisinger, *Marketing Coordinator*
Amy Salera, *Walk Engagement Specialist*
Heather Vallone, *Executive Assistant*



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