



# ASPIRE SPEECH & LEARNING CENTER

# Newsletter

August 16, 2019

## Announcements

### New Fall Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:00-7:00pm

Friday: 8:00-5:00pm

Saturday: 9:00-1:00pm

### Upcoming Events

Breaking The Barriers Conference

August 17, 9:00am-4:00pm

Fresno Walk for Apraxia

August 25, 8:00am

Located at Woodward Park

## 2019 Fresno Walk for Apraxia

### What is Childhood Apraxia of Speech?

While most children almost miraculously learn to speak without effort, children with apraxia struggle mightily to accurately produce and sequence sounds, syllables and words. Their understanding of language is generally much better than their ability to express it.

Weak muscles are not the problem. The difficulty lies in planning rapid and finely coordinated movements of the speech structures (the lips, tongue, palate and jaw). For children with apraxia, their ideas are often misunderstood, not understood at all, or are left unspoken. Childhood Apraxia of Speech is challenging to overcome. Intensive speech therapy is the only proven treatment for this rare speech sound disorder.

### Why Do We Fundraise?

Individuals and teams fundraise as part of the Walk for Apraxia in order to support Apraxia Kids' mission and our current and future efforts to help children with apraxia find their voice.

- Childhood Apraxia of Speech is among the rarest, most severe and complex of all speech disorders impacting children.
- Proper treatment is intensive and specialized speech therapy can be extremely difficult for families to find for their children.
- Specialized understanding and training of speech professionals is needed to optimize outcomes for children.
- Without proper help and services, a cascade of other challenges may occur to children with apraxia, including social, emotional, and learning difficulties related to limited speech and communication.

-Information found at [apraxia-kids.org](http://apraxia-kids.org), Walk for Apraxia

## Aspire Speech & Learning Center Attending!

Aspire Speech will be participating in 2019's Fresno Walk for Apraxia, as well as hosting a table at the event. Parent's and families are welcome to attend!

For more information visit their website at [apraxia-kids.org](http://apraxia-kids.org).



## Staff Spotlight



Kristin Flannigan, MA, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist

Kristin is a Missouri native who moved to sunny California five years ago. After receiving her master's she started at Aspire in 2015, where she found the perfect place to help children and their families find the magic in communication. She has a variety of professional interests including culturally and linguistically diverse populations and is one of two bilingual speech pathologists on staff. Kristin loves using her Spanish in the clinic with clients and their families. She also enjoys spending time with her church family and friends while exploring the beautiful state of California and all it has to offer.



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