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Cleft Palate Speech Therapy Hierarchy

1. **Discrimination.** Begin with discrimination between the correct production and the compensatory production (ex. bilabial plosive “p” production versus a glottal stop)
2. **Single Sounds.** Work on the sound in isolation
3. **Syllables***. Work on the sound in syllables (Acevedo spoke: consonant vowel- CV, VCV, VC). E.g., CV-pa, pa, pa, pa, then pa, pe, pi, po, pu, then VC ap, ap, ap, then ap, ep, ip, op, up, then VCV-apa, epe, ipi, opo, upu/.
4. **Words**.** Target the sound in words*
 - a. Begin with the sound in initial position (first sound in a word)
 - b. Then the sound in the final position (last sound in a word)
 - c. Then the sound in the medial position (middle sound in a word)
5. **Phrases and sentences**.** Target the sound in short phrases and then sentences
6. **Conversation.** Target the sound in conversation
7. Begin hierarchy again with the next sound on the patient’s therapy plan

*See the Acevedo Spoke video on LEADERSproject.org to learn speech therapy strategies when the child is at the syllable stage

**Use the cleft palate speech therapy books on LEADERSproject.org. These books each focus on particular high-pressure oral sounds and eliminate others that are challenging to those with cleft palate speech

NB: Voiceless cognate is generally targeted before the voiced sound of the same manner and place. E.g., target P (voiceless) before B (voiced)

NB: The client must be able to produce with 100% accuracy at one stage on the hierarchy before moving to the next stage.