The Childhood Apraxia and Motor Planning (CHAMP) Camp is heading into its 4th year of intensive speech therapy in the summer of 2015. This year GWU is offering a two-week intensive experience for children and parents.

A trademark of CHAMP is the highly individualized nature of the therapy experience. One treatment approach does not meet the needs of every child. Based on extensive pre-camp information gathering and an initial assessment, a treatment protocol is developed to address your child’s speech and language needs. For one camper this may mean incorporating a hybrid approach of Dynamic Temporal and Tactile Cuing with Core Vocabulary to target speech and language. For a child who is working on residual speech sounds errors a more traditional approach may be incorporated.

Regardless of the approach that is selected, therapy will be intensive, and incorporate the Principles of Motor Learning. The CHAMP team will factor in the learning style of your child to identify an appropriate cuing and support hierarchy (i.e., tactile cues, visual, or temporal cues). Goals will focus on functional communication in the context of play or academic based activities, and incorporate language and social skills as needed.

GWU is a teaching facility. Therefore, therapy will be provided by graduate level clinicians & supervised by a certified/licensed speech-language pathologist. Each participant will work with a clinician to provide continuity of care and 1:1 support. PROMPT therapy is not available.
CHAMP CAMP TESTIMONIALS

“CHAMP Camp was an amazing experience! Not only did I see my daughter Olivia progress verbally, but I also was able to interact with other families going through the same experience. Olivia has severe apraxia and we have tried many different therapists and techniques. Olivia’s GW Therapist was highly trained and very enthusiastic. She paired so well with my daughter who can get frustrated very easily. She was able to learn 2 new sounds (L and V) in 4 days of camp. This is amazing since Olivia had been in therapy for almost 4 years already. These sounds were life changing. Not only because her name is Olivia but because she can now say ‘I Love You.’ As a mother of a child with apraxia, every new sound and word is praise worthy, but to hear ‘I love you’ from your child who struggles to speak is simply amazing. The camp director, Jodi Kumar, is wonderful. Not only is she an expert in apraxia, but she is also a kind, compassionate woman. She cares about these kids and their parents. While the kiddos are receiving their therapy, we got to have some therapy of our own. There is something about getting in a room full of parents who understand your apraxia struggles, challenges and triumphs. I would highly recommend CHAMP camp to anyone whose child is struggling with Apraxia.” Jen Landaverry, Pennsylvania, CHAMP 2013

“Heading to DC for the past two years for my son to attend CHAMP camp was well worth the travel involved. My son felt comfortable going with his clinician because they had video conferenced several times before camp. His therapy room was full of toys specific to his interests and had a two way mirror so that I could observe and learn how to better practice at home. In addition to the intense speech therapy and fun group time (Zumba dancing was a favorite this past year!), the camp is also geared towards parent education. The parent education piece along with the connections we made with other families made this camp far exceed our expectations two years in a row. Director Jodi Kumar is a dedicated expert who provides a wealth of information and supervision during the camp in a caring and parent friendly manner.” Sarah Pare, Massachusetts, CHAMP 2012 and 2013

“My 6 year-old son and I attended CHAMP Camp for the first time in 2013. What an amazing experience! My son was matched up with a clinician who really "got" him. He has more than just apraxia so he can be tricky to work with. I figured camp would be fun for him and a good way for me to learn more about apraxia. What would he really learn in 4 days? Well, he learned 10 new words and 2 new sounds! And the knowledge I gained through the parent workshops, watching sessions, and parent networking empowered me to get my son better services when we returned. It’s been 6 months since camp and he has maintained what he learned plus gained more skills! We are so grateful for what CHAMP Camp did for us.” Cindy Szapacs, Pennsylvania, CHAMP 2013

“Our three year old daughter attended two Champ Camp sessions at the Speech and Hearing Center last summer. As of the first day of Champ Camp, Maggie had a very limited ability to verbally communicate. She could just barely say her name, spoken in two words "Ma and Gee," and had a functional vocabulary consisting of approximately 20 words at the most. Although she had been in early intervention from the age of 18 months, we noticed very little progress in her speech and language development. After the first week of Champ Camp, she began to say words we would have never imagined her even attempting to say. By the end of the summer, she was saying two word utterances. The professionalism and care the CHAMP Camp clinicians provided was both outstanding and above and beyond anything we had experienced with the therapists we have seen over the past two years. We can only imagine the hard work and planning that went into four plus hours of intensive therapy. In addition, the parent education and testimonial sessions were an invaluable source of education on a topic that, to date, we knew only through searching online. We now feel equipped to properly advocate for our child with regard to therapy in the school system, and to evaluate private therapy options.” Ben and Nicole Winburn, Virginia, CHAMP 2013
EVALUATION DAY
On the 1st Monday of camp, all campers will meet their clinicians and participate in a formal evaluation. Each evaluation will last ~1-1.5 hours. Parents will be able to observe the evaluation. Results of the evaluation will be reviewed during the parent consultation meeting at the end of the camp experience and evaluation results will be mailed home post camp.

DURING CAMP
The following is a tentative schedule during treatment days. The schedule will be modified on the final Thursday to include CHAMP Camp Graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50-9:00</td>
<td>Arrive at Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Morning group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-10:00</td>
<td>Individual Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:45</td>
<td>Group Therapy (3-4 children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:30</td>
<td>Individual Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>Group Therapy (3-4 children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15-12:30</td>
<td>Parent Training Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PARENT EDUCATION
Parent education sessions will be held concurrent to a group therapy session. Previous topics have included AAC/apps for speech therapy, IEPs, Prosody, language stimulation, Literacy, and Best Practice for CAS. Attendance at parent education sessions are mandatory for participation in camp.

PARENT CONSULTATION
During one of the final group therapy sessions, parents will debrief with their child’s clinician(s). These sessions will provide an overview of how their child progressed at camp, descriptions of treatment strategies implemented, and provide parents with recommendations for therapy. Evaluation/treatment summaries will be mailed to each family after camp has been completed.

INDIVIDUAL THERAPY
Each camper will participate in 2, 45-minute therapy sessions & 1 parent training session (15 minutes) daily. This may include therapy time in the clinic’s Sensory and Motor Planning gym. Sessions may target goals that the camper is currently working on in therapy or newly identified goals. A variety of supports will be incorporated (i.e., tactile, verbal, visual, kinesthetic, and sensory) to support the client in reaching their maximum potential. Parents will be able to observe individual therapy sessions.

GROUP THERAPY
Group therapy will occur twice daily for 45 minutes and consist of 3-4 campers and 2 clinicians. This year group therapy will focus on literacy and prosody. In addition, group will be an opportunity for each camper to generalize goals targeted during individual therapy in different contexts. Activities will be functional (i.e., snack time, crafts, story time, obstacle courses, and other gross motor activities). Speech and language goals may also be targeted through art or music therapy. Parents will be able to observe some of the group sessions.

APPLICATION PROCESS: In order to be considered for CHAMP camp or an intensive, an application and a 5-10 minute speech and language sample is required by February 27, 2015. To fill out the application: http://goo.gl/forms/tEkPURXTV1. Video samples can be sent directly through email as an attachment. A video of your child in speech therapy is preferred. Applications will continue to be accepted after that deadline; however, you will be placed on the waitlist if the camp is already at capacity. Your application will not be considered complete until both the video and application have been received. Please email the video to jkumar@gwu.edu.
Accommodations
Families are responsible for their own accommodations during the week of camp. However, the following may be options:

1. University dorm housing has been used in previous years to help parents offset the cost of a hotel. Rates are subject to change. Rates during 2013 were $35 per person per night. Therefore, a child and a parent would be $70/night. This is considerably less than a hotel. Dorm housing can not be guaranteed as there is often a minimum number of guests/room reservations that are required.

2. Discounts and/or gifted hotel stays: Several families have reached out to local hotels in the area by writing detailed letters to explain the reason for their stay. Many hotels have offered discounts and a few have offered complimentary stays.

Selection Process: There are a limited number of spots available for CHAMP CAMP 2015. To make the camp cohesive, applicants are selected and identified as candidates based on age, severity of apraxia/speech sound disorder, presence and severity of concomitants disorders, and behavior supports that will need to be provided during the camp experience in order to make it an effective experience for the campers both in individual and group therapy.

About George Washington University’s Speech and Hearing Center
The George Washington University Speech & Hearing Center has been serving clients since 1946. The Center provides a full range of speech, language, and hearing services for individuals with communicative disorders. As an educational facility for graduate students entering the field of speech-language pathology, the Center maintains high standards in its delivery of comprehensive evaluations and therapy. The Center serves persons of all ages, from infants to senior citizens. For more information about the Speech and Hearing Clinic, visit us at: http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/speechhearing/center

About the CHAMP CAMP Director
Jodi N. Kumar, M.S., CCC/SLP has been a practicing SLP for ~10 years and has worked in a variety of settings across the life span in both the U.S. and Canada. Areas of clinical interest include brain injury and motor speech disorders. Currently, she is the clinical supervisor for the Speech Sound and Motor Speech Disorders Track at GWU. She is level 2 PROMPT trained and is recognized for Advanced Training and Clinical Expertise in Childhood Apraxia of Speech by CASANA. She developed CHAMP Camp in 2012 to provide an opportunity for intensive speech therapy for children with CAS, as well as, to supplement the education of future SLPs regarding best practice for Childhood Apraxia of Speech.