The original Childhood Apraxia and Motor Planning (™) Camp known as CHAMP is heading into its 6th year of intensive speech therapy in the summer of 2017. This year we will be offering two separate camps; one for returning campers and one for new clients. If either camp does not fill up, there may be an option for either new or returning clients to register for additional therapy.

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 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.
“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, 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, Massachusetts, CHAMP 2012 & 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 two new sounds! And the knowledge that I gained through the parent workshops, watching sessions, and parent networking empowered me to get my son better services when we returned. It has been six months since camp and he has retained what he has learned plus gained more skills! We are so grateful for what CHAMP did for us.”

Cindy, Pennsylvania - CHAMP 2013

“Our daughter has attended CHAMP camp for three consecutive summers. Every summer has resulted in her taking a major step forward in her struggle with CAS. It hasn't been easy, but at CHAMP camp no one ever gives up. She loves the clinicians, her fellow campers, and most of all Professor Kumar who is making great things happen for our daughter.”

Lindsay, Virginia- CHAMP 2014-2016

“The CHAMP camp has been wonderful for our child Alex, who is now 8 and is diagnosed with apraxia and dysarthria. The CHAMP camp provides Alex with intensive speech therapy sessions back to back for several days, that are condensed into a short period. We have found that the results obtained over the short period give Alex a big boost in his expressive ability. Not only is his improvement notable over this short period, he absolutely loves CHAMP camp! The daily activities are structured in a way that keeps the kids engaged and the therapists are professional yet so energetic and awesome! Alex enjoys every minute of the CHAMP camp; from the group sessions, interactions and the friendships he forms with the other kids, to his individual therapists and specially decorated room.”

Claudia, Virginia, 2013-2016

“Our son Colten has participated in CHAMP camp the past two summers. We couldn’t be happier with the progress he makes during these two week intensives. Therapy is tailored to his interests, clinicians are engaging, well-prepared and professional, and movement and tactile cuing are used to further his progress. This summer, he achieved some of his IEP goals for the upcoming school year. So what the school district sought to achieve in a year, CHAMP camp mastered in two weeks. Needless to say, CHAMP gets our highest recommendation.”

DESCRIPTION OF CHAMP CAMP

RETURNING CAMPERS

THERAPY SCHEDULE
The following is a tentative schedule for returning campers (i.e., Monday through Thursday). The schedule will be modified on the final day to include CHAMP Camp Graduation.

8:50-9:00  Arrive at Clinic
9:00-9:50  Individual Therapy
9:50-10:40 Group Therapy
10:40-10:45 Individual Therapy
10:45-11:00 Parent Training Session

NEW CAMPERS

EVALUATION DAY
On the 1st Monday of camp, all campers will participate in a formal evaluation. Each evaluation will last 1.5-2 hours. Parents will be able to observe the evaluation. Results of the evaluation will be used to develop a treatment plan for CHAMP and will be reviewed during the parent consultation meeting.

THERAPY SCHEDULE
The following is a tentative schedule during treatment days (i.e., Tuesday through Friday). The schedule will be modified on the final day to include graduation.

8:50-9:00  Arrive at Clinic
9:00-9:50  Individual Therapy
9:50-10:40 Group Therapy
10:40-10:45 Individual Therapy
10:45-11:00 Parent Training Session

PARENT EDUCATION
Several parent education sessions will be held concurrent group therapy session. Previous topics have included AAC/apps for speech therapy, IEPs, Sensory Processing, Prosody, language stimulation, Social Issues for children with CAS, Executive Functioning, 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). The consult will provide an overview of how their child progressed, 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.

OPTIONAL LITERACY THERAPY: Parents may opt to add an additional 50-minute literacy therapy session at the end of each CHAMP therapy day. Sessions will focus on phonological awareness, phonics, and vocabulary development. Cost is $150/4 sessions. Literacy sessions will be supervised by Geoffrey Greenman, CCC/SLP. For additional information please contact Professor Greenman at gs.greenman@gwu.edu or refer to the literacy flyer under the summer camp section on our website.
Speech Therapy Intensives

Speech therapy intensives will be offered in the Spring 2017 semester and the Fall 2017 semester at the GWU’s Speech and Hearing Center. Intensives are 2-3-day experiences that include either 2 or 3 individual therapy sessions per day. A treatment summary will be mailed home to families at the end of each intensive. Clinicians will review your child’s current progress through a case history, current evaluations, and progress notes. Due to the short nature of the therapy experience, 1-2 goals will be identified in collaboration with the parents to target intensively throughout the sessions. If you are interested in a therapy intensive or have additional questions please contact Jodi Kumar, M.S., CCC/SLP directly at jkumar@gwu.edu. Intensives are $75 for each therapy session.

Testimonial from Intensive: “Our daughter was diagnosed with severe apraxia at age 3. We have attended 2 intensives at GWU and have our 3rd scheduled for October 2014. The knowledge and expertise of Jodi and her clinicians have not only helped Olivia learn and use new sounds, but have equipped her with tips and tricks on how to remember and utilize the sounds and words in her daily life. We believe through our experience, the key to overcoming apraxia is to have intensive, on going therapy with highly trained therapist. GWU has been so helpful in teaching Olivia how to make the sounds she needs in order to communicate. They have changed the course of her life and we would recommend anyone with a child with apraxia to attend an intensive therapy session.” Jen, PA

Is CHAMP Camp or an Intensive a good fit for your child?

CHAMP Camp

Your child would be a candidate for CHAMP CAMP if:

✓ Your child is 6-9 years of age (age limit is for new campers only);
✓ Your child has a diagnosis of Speech Sound Disorder, CAS, Suspected CAS, Phonological Disorder, or has significantly reduced intelligibility;
✓ Is able to tolerate up to 2.5 hours of therapy-related activities daily;
✓ Your child does not have significant behavior issues that would negatively impact forward progress in this specific context;
✓ If other diagnoses (i.e., ASD) co-occur then additional informational may be requested to ensure that your child is a candidate for camp.
✓ Your child does not have difficulty separating from you. Due to the short nature of camp, if your child is extremely shy or has difficulty

Intensives

Your child would be a candidate for an intensive if:

✓ Your child is 4 year of age or older;
✓ Your child has a diagnosis of Speech Sound Disorder, CAS, Suspected CAS, Phonological Disorder, or has significantly reduced intelligibility;
✓ Your child is capable of participating in 2-3, 50-minute therapy sessions daily;
✓ Your child does not have difficulty separating from you. Due to the short nature of the intensive, if your child is extremely shy or has difficulty separating it would impact forward progress during the intensive;
✓ Your child does not have significant behavior issues that would negatively impact forward progress in therap.
HOW TO APPLY FOR CHAMP

Application Process: In order to be considered for CHAMP or an intensive, a referral form and a 5-10 minute video of your child’s current level of communication is required by February 17, 2017. To submit a referral please call 202-994-7360. Video samples can be sent through email to jkumar@gwu.edu. Your application will not be considered complete until both the video and application have been received. Application review will not take place until after the application deadline.

Selection Process: There are a limited number of spots available for each week of CHAMP CAMP 2017. To make the camp cohesive, applicants are selected and identified as candidates based on age, severity of motor speech/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.

Additional Questions?

Contact: Jodi N. Kumar, M.S., CCC/SLP
Clinical Supervisor
jkumar@gwu.edu

Interested in applying to CHAMP or an intensive?

Submit a referral by calling the George Washington University’s Speech and Hearing Center at 202-994-7360.

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 13 years; working in a variety of settings across the lifespan in both the U.S. and Canada. Areas of clinical interest include motor speech disorders and brain injury. Since 2012, she has supervised the Speech Sounds Disorders Track at The George Washington University’s Speech and Hearing Center. She is recognized for advanced training and clinical expertise in Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) by CASANA and is level-2 PROMPT trained. Jodi developed CHAMP in 2012 to provide opportunities for intensive speech therapy, as well as, to supplement the clinical education of future SLPs regarding best practice for CAS. She has presented about CHAMP both nationally (at the ASHA convention and the National Conference on Childhood Apraxia of Speech), in addition to, internationally at the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics’ World Congress.