

SPEECH PARAMETERS

- **Speech parameters include articulation, prosody and voice.**
- **For autistic persons who speak, articulation is usually accurate.**
- **Prosody and voice are critical nonverbal aspects of communication.**
- **They can convey meaning and emotion.**
- **They are bound by subtle cultural rules for different social contexts.**
- **They must be adjusted to meet the needs of the communication partner.**
- **For autistic persons, prosody and voice are often poorly modulated within connected speech and in varied social contexts.**
- **In echolalic speech, prosody and voice are usually a good approximation of typical speech.**

Articulation

- The production of speech sounds to form words in connected speech.
- Apraxia of speech is a difficulty in coordination of the muscle movements required to produce words. (not caused by muscle weakness or paralysis)

Prosody

- Speaking ***phrases*** and sentences in meaningful word groups with correct pauses.
- Using an appropriate ***rate*** in connected speech.
- Using the correct amount of ***stress*** for words and phrases to convey tone and meaning.

Voice

- ***Loudness*** should be modulated to match the context and listener.
- ***Pitch*** in words and sentences should change to convey meaning.
- ***Laryngeal quality*** should be modulated to convey tone of voice.
- ***Resonance quality*** should be adjusted to match listener preference.