

Prosody Hierarchy: The goal of this hierarchy is to improve prosody skills in children with CAS, including rate, pitch, and volume.

**Children may be working in more than one level at once. Also, children may not take these levels in order. Use this as a framework but please customize it to the needs of the child you're working with.

Level	What it Looks Like	What to Work On
1. Attending to Variations in pitch, rate, and volume	Child is not yet aware of the concepts of pitch, rate, and volume	Expose the child to variations in pitch, rate, and volume and pair these variations with words to describe them. Opposites such as fast/slow, high/low, and loud/quiet should be introduced.
2. Demonstrating Prosody Variations in Non-Speech	Child is aware of the concepts of pitch, rate, and volume but is not yet able to demonstrate variations in these with speech	Help the child demonstrate variations in pitch, rate, and volume with non-speech (sound effects or noises). Demonstrations should start with opposites for contrast (high/low, etc) and move to more subtle variations.
3. Demonstrating Prosody Variations in Speech	Child is able to demonstrate variations in pitch, rate, and volume in non-speech but is not yet doing so in single words	Have the child demonstrate variations in pitch, rate, and volume with single words or nonsense syllables. Start with opposites for contrast and move to more subtle variations.
4. Using Appropriate Prosody in Single Words	Child is able to demonstrate variations in prosody with single words or non-sense syllables but does not always speak single words with appropriate prosody	Help the child understand how to speak single words with correct prosody. Talk about which syllable gets stress (loudness), the rate at which certain sounds or syllables are spoken (rate), and how pitch variations can make the word sound more like a question, statement or exclamation.
5. Using Appropriate Prosody in Phrases and Sentences	Child is able to use appropriate prosody when speaking single words but phrases and sentences are spoken with incorrect prosody	Help the child understand how to use appropriate rate and pausing, intonation, and stress in phrases and sentences. Talk about how changes in pausing, intonation, and stress can change the meaning of a sentence.
6. Using Appropriate Prosody in Connected Speech	Child is able to speak sentences with appropriate prosody but connected speech is still produced without appropriate prosody	Help the child understand how to use the prosody strategies from previous levels in connected speech.