

Writing goals is one of the most important parts of treatment planning, but it can also be one of the trickiest when you're addressing complex skills like understanding and using prosody of speech. We've taken the core areas addressed by The Prosody Assessment and generated some sample goals to get you started. Remember, different settings have different goal requirements, so think of these as jumping-off points and modify them to meet your specific needs and the requirements of your setting.

## EXPRESSIVE SKILLS

People who have a hard time with expressive prosody can send messages they don't intend to to their conversational partners. The following are the expressive prosody skills that are evaluated by the Prosody Assessment App.

### Contrastive Stress:



Emphasis, or stress, on one word in a sentence is often used to highlight or focus attention on that word.

**Sample goal or objective:** *When presented with a photo & a descriptive sentence with incorrect information, client will re-state the sentence with the correct information emphasized through the use of higher pitch, longer duration, and/or increased loudness with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Social Context:



Tone of voice varies between social contexts & is an important aspect of social communication.

**Sample goal or objective:** *When shown a photo of a social setting & given a phrase to say, client will say the phrase using the tone of voice & loudness level that is appropriate to the social setting with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Focal Emphasis:



Syllable stress can distinguish both word & utterance meaning.

**Sample goal or objective:** *When given a 2-, 3-, or 4-syllable word & instructions on which syllable to emphasize, client will say the word with the appropriate stress with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Rising & Falling Pitch:



Rising & falling pitch is often used to indicate questions vs. comments during conversation.

**Sample goal or objective:** *When given a phrase & instructions to say it as either a statement or a question, client will repeat the phrase with the appropriate rise or fall in pitch with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

PROSODY - IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY,  
*IT'S HOW YOU SAY IT*

## RECEPTIVE SKILLS

Understanding and using prosody is thought to be a complex neurological task that involves many parts of the brain interacting and communicating with one another. It is not uncommon for people who are experiencing neurological differences -- including autism, childhood apraxia of speech, developmental language delay, central auditory processing disorder, and hearing loss -- to also experience challenges related to prosody.

### Phrase Boundaries:



Phrase boundaries function as “prosodic punctuation” by chunking utterances into meaningful units such as phrases.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to phrases & given supporting pictures, client will demonstrate the ability to accurately chunk the utterances of a speaker by correctly identifying the picture that corresponds with the utterance with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Like or Dislike:



Positive or a negative opinion can be expressed by a change in the pitch & tone of voice.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a phrase, client will correctly state whether the tone of voice indicates like or dislike with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Contrastive Stress:



Emphasis, or stress, on one word in a sentence is often used to highlight or focus attention on that word.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a phrase with a single stressed word, client will correctly identify the stressed word with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Lexical Stress:



Syllable stress can distinguish both word & utterance meaning.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a list of single words that are read with both correct & incorrect primary stress, client will indicate whether the word is correct or incorrect with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Basic Emotions:



Changes in pitch, volume, and tempos all allow a listener to decode how a speaker feels.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a phrase & given visual representations of basic emotions, client will correctly identify the emotion being conveyed by the speaker with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Social Context:



Tone of voice varies between social contexts & is an important aspect of social communication.

*Sample goal or objective: When presented with a picture of a social situation & 1 utterance said two different ways, client will identify the utterance with the prosody that is appropriate to the social situation with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Rising and Falling Pitch:



Rising and falling pitch is often used to indicate questions vs. comments during conversation.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a phrase & given visual cues, client will correctly indicate whether the phrase is a statement or a question with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*

### Sarcasm:



Sarcasm, irony, & whether the speaker actually means what they are saying by how the sentence is said can all be conveyed via changes in pitch, volume, & tempo of speech.

*Sample goal or objective: When listening to a phrase, client will correctly state whether or not the speaker's tone indicated sarcasm with 80% accuracy on 5 consecutive data days.*