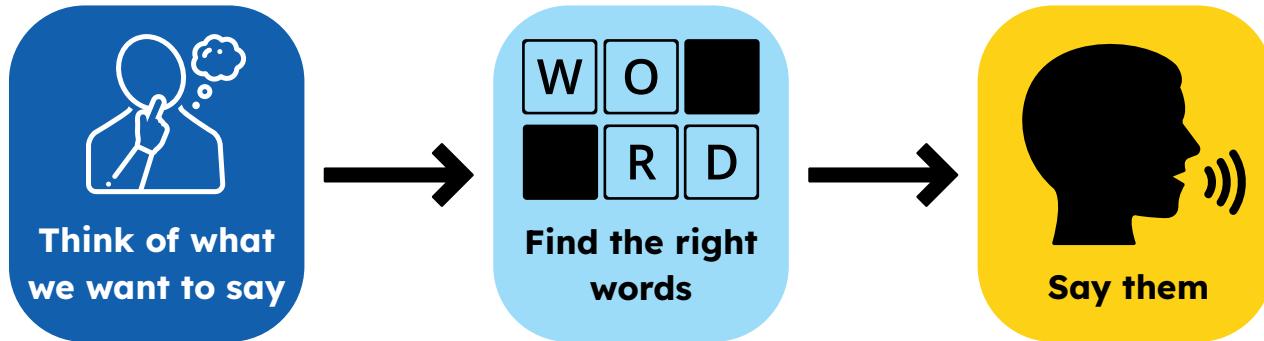


How Do We Produce Speech?

Communication requires that we...



There are three components to effective speech production:

1. **Breath Support**: We need air to produce speech, and the amount of air that goes through the voice box determines how loud we are.
2. **Voice**: Air from the lungs vibrates our vocal folds to create our voice, and tensing or relaxing our vocal folds changes pitch.
3. **Articulation**: We move our lips, tongue, and soft palate to transform our voice into different speech sounds.

How Does FA Affect Speech?

FA can cause a speech disorder called **dysarthria**, which is caused by muscle weakness and difficulties coordinating muscles used in speech. This can cause...

1. **Poor breath support.**
2. **Difficulties controlling loudness and pitch.**
3. **Slow speech.**
4. **Slurred speech.**
5. **Changes in the quality of your voice (i.e. hoarseness)**