

Request for Subjects

Title of project: The efficacy of PROMPT in treating Childhood Apraxia of Speech

Principle investigator:

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Purpose of Study:

Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets (PROMPT) is a treatment approach commonly used with children with impaired speech production skills. It involves the use of tactile cues (touch) to support and shape movements of the articulator (oral and facial structures) in order to improve the production of individual sounds, syllables, words and eventually connected speech. The underlying assumption is that tactile cuing will facilitate changes in the movements of the speech articulators.

In the current study we will be investigating if 16 sessions of PROMPT treatment (using tactile cueing) results in more significant gains in the targeted phonemes, words and phrases than when only part of the 16 weeks includes tactual cueing with respect to improved articulation, consistency on a standard articulation test and improved quality of speech movements. We will also be investigating if the quality of the speech movements compares to auditory-perceptual measures of speech (articulation and speech intelligibility) and if these changes generalize to untrained words?

Subject selection and criteria for inclusion:

We are looking for children, between the ages of 4 and 6, who have been diagnosed with CAS (Childhood Apraxia of Speech) and demonstrate a moderate to severe speech impairment. The children will be recruited from the Albuquerque-Santa Fe region. The children must be free of organic impairments (hearing, severe motor, or cognitive). The children must be monolingual English speakers to avoid any influence of another language. If, currently enrolled in speech therapy the treating therapist must agree to only focus on receptive language for the PROMPT treatment period or to postpone active treatment until the PROMPT treatment and follow-up testing (8-14 weeks) are completed.

Where will the study take place:

The study will be conducted in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of New Mexico or at the PROMPT Institute in Santa Fe. Children will receive PROMPT treatment twice a week for 8 weeks (sixteen sessions) by a Certified PROMPT clinician, at no cost to the family. If participants continue to require treatment beyond the eight weeks, they will be given the opportunity to continue treatment at either UNM or The PROMPT Institute. Parent/guardians will be informed that they will need to pay for ongoing services.

If interested, please contact: Deborah Hayden at the PROMPT Institute, 505.466.7710, deb@promptinstitute.com

This grant is supported by CASANA - Childhood Apraxia of Speech Assoc. of North America