Differentiation of young children’s speech problems through play.

Researchers at The University of Sydney are conducting a study with young children (aged 2;0-7;11yrs) who have a significant speech difficulty. The researchers want to test a range of new play-based speech tasks to see if they can differentiate speech sound disorders more reliably and accurately than existing tools.

Current tools help determine if a child has a speech sound disorder and if they need treatment. However, there are different types of speech sound disorders that respond to different treatment. For example, some children have difficulty using speech rules to create meaning (e.g. saying spaghetti as “padetti”) whereas others have difficulty planning or making movements for speech (e.g. saying spaghetti as “da..de”). The findings of this study will help researchers learn what tasks and measures can help clinicians to determine which type of speech disorder/s a child has to provide more specific information to parents and carers and what evidence-based treatments are likely to help.

Is your child...

- Aged 2 years to 7 years, 11 months?
- Speak English as their primary language (and do you or your partner also have English as your main language?)
- Have normal (or corrected) hearing and vision?
- Speak at least 5 words
- Having trouble speaking clearly so other people can understand them? For example :do they use different sounds to what you expect, only say part of a word and/or have difficulties saying longer words.
- Can you and your child come to The University of Sydney’s Faculty of Health Sciences at Lidcombe for two hours of speech tasks (in 1 or 2 sessions?)

If you answered YES to all these questions, then we would like to hear from you.

What does the study involve?

You and your child will attend either the Communication Disorders Treatment and Research Clinic at The University of Sydney in Lidcombe for up 2 hours (in 1 or 2 sessions). Your child’s overall communication ability and their speech will be assessed using a variety of standard speech pathology tests and new play-based tasks. You will get the results of this FREE assessment in a written report.

CONTACTS

Dr. Elizabeth Murray
Speech Pathologist & Researcher
Phone: 0405 845 309

Dr Elise Baker
Speech Pathologist & Researcher
Phone: 9351 9121

Email: child.speech@sydney.edu.au

We will send you additional information, and answer any questions you may have.

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Human Ethics Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on (02) 9036 9161 (telephone); human.ethics@sydney.edu.au (email).