The Efficacy of PROMPT in Treating Childhood Apraxia of Speech D. Hayden, P. Dale

PROMPT (Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets) is a treatment approach that is widely used to improve sound production in children with speech impairments. This approach uses tactile cues to support and shape movements of the oral articulators in order to improve the production of individual sounds, syllables, words and eventually connected speech. No research to date has systematically examined if and how PROMPT treatment facilitates change in children with CAS. Four children with CAS were treated (3.6-4.8). All children met the criteria for CAS as outlined by the ASHA 2007 position paper. All children received 8 weeks, 2x/week of treatment including at least 4 weeks of full PROMPT treatment (FP); two children received 4 weeks first of all PROMPT components except tactile information (WT=without tactile). We asked: Does FP produce greater gains than WT in the first 4 weeks on articulation, consistency measures, quality and sequencing of speech movements and do additional gains occur in these measures when all children are receiving FP? Results indicated that all children made significant gains during treatment but those who benefited most in the second half were those children who began FP then.