

Free Speech Lessons using Ultrasound Therapy

For Children who have trouble with the R sound

A Research Study at Haskins Laboratories

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Who is Eligible?

Children ages 9-14 with articulation problems on the /r/ sound are now being recruited for a study. This includes children who have a history of Childhood Apraxia of Speech, as well as children with articulation problems on /r/ who do not have Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Children with speech disorders due to hearing loss, cleft palate, autism, or other developmental disability are not eligible at this time.

What Will Happen?

Children will be screened during a 2-hour visit at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven. During this session, several speech and language tests will be administered. If the child is eligible, he/she may be invited to participate in a follow-up visit involving EEG to assess the brain's response during speech tasks. Speech lessons used in this study will involve using an ultrasound to provide a video image of the tongue as the child talks. The child places the ultrasound beneath the chin. This generates a "real-time movie" of the tongue, which can be used to help the child understand what is happening in the mouth when producing speech sounds. These images are used to cue the child to move the tongue to different positions and to make different tongue shapes to achieve a correct /r/.

If your child qualifies for the study, they will participate in 2 weeks of intensive therapy (3 sessions per week) both on and off the ultrasound, followed by up to 16 sessions involving speech lessons in which ultrasound is used.



What Does it Cost?

There is no cost to participants. Families will be compensated \$20/hr for each hour of testing plus \$5/hr for parking costs. No monetary compensation will be provided during the sessions in which speech lessons are provided.

What are the Risks?

Ultrasound imaging has been extensively studied. There are no known risks with this low-level imaging.

How Do I Find Out More?

For more information, email learn@haskins.yale.edu Or call 203-865-6163 x219



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