

## **Effectiveness of the Children's Intensive Course**

**Collaborators:** None

**Aims and objectives:**

To explore the effectiveness of the children's intensive course which is run by the Michael Palin Centre.

**Relevance and value:**

The Michael Palin Centre offers a number of therapy programmes for children who stammer, one of which is the intensive therapy course for children aged 10-14 years. This two-week course is attended by both parents and the child and has a one-year follow up period. As with all therapy programmes it is critical that the effectiveness of therapy is explored.

**Method:**

1) Group data: Parents and children complete assessment questionnaires at various points in the assessment and therapy process. These assessment points have now been predefined following a number of pilots to identify the most appropriate battery of assessments. The data obtained is primarily obtained for the purposes of clinical decision making and evaluating progress and the need or content of further therapy.

Because the data is collected systematically and consistently, this may be used to evaluate the outcome of the courses as a whole. Questionnaires are completed and speech recordings analysed at the following time points: 2-3 months pre-course, immediately pre-course, immediately post course, 6 weeks, 4 months, 9 months and 1 year post course.

**Outcome:**

- Results of the exploratory factor analysis were presented at 9<sup>th</sup> Oxford Dysfluency Conference, September 2011
- Normative data was presented at ASHA 2011
- An on-line version of the scales is being developed which will automatically calculate normative scores
- Submission of paper to peer reviewed journal
- Publication of the Palin PRS

**Lead and team involved:**

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