Dear Parent,

I am a researcher in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at NYU. My assistants and I are studying how speech therapy can help children who have trouble saying the “r” sound. We are testing different types of therapy for “r,” including therapy using an iPad/iPhone app. We are partnering with practicing speech-language pathologists to conduct a study to find out if our methods can help children make a better “r” sound.

We are looking for children/adolescents who:
- Are between the ages of 9 and 15
- Are native speakers of English
- Have difficulty producing correct “r” sounds and have not made progress through regular speech therapy. We are especially interested in finding participants who have received speech therapy targeting “r” for at least one year with limited success.
- Have no major problems hearing or understanding language

What your child will do:
- Prior to enrollment, your child may participate in an inclusion evaluation. During the evaluation, your child’s speech-language pathologist may perform the following:
  - Hearing screening
  - Speech and language testing
- This study will typically take place in three phases.
  - In the first phase (3-5 sessions), your child’s speech-language pathologist will record your child producing “r” in various contexts without any feedback.
  - In the second phase (approximately 8 weeks), your child will receive treatment for the “r” sound. All therapy will be provided on an individual basis by your child’s speech-language pathologist. Your child will practice saying words with the “r” sound, both with and without app feedback. Your child’s speech will be recorded during treatment sessions. With permission from you and your child, the speech-language pathologist will share those recordings with our research team for analysis.
  - In the final phase (3 sessions), your child will again produce “r” in various contexts without any feedback.
- For the duration of the study (maximum 15 hours over approximately 11 weeks), our standard study protocol should replace any “r” therapy your child is currently receiving.
- One month after treatment, your child may be asked to participate in a follow-up session. During this session, your child will be asked to produce “r” in various contexts without any feedback.

What you will do:
- Fill out a questionnaire about your child’s developmental history and language experiences.
- Fill out a questionnaire about how your child is affected by his/her difficulty with the “r” sound, both before and after the treatment period.

How long it will take:
- Participation in this study will involve a maximum of 15 hours of your child’s time over a period of approximately 11 weeks.
Location:
- Study activities will take place in the setting where the child typically receives his/her speech therapy services, or in another quiet room.

What you and your child will receive:
- Your child will have the opportunity to try out a new approach to “r” therapy. Participating in this therapy may help your child make a better “r” sound.
- There is no charge associated with participation in this study.

You will be asked to sign a written permission form that will explain the study and your rights in more detail.

If you are interested in enrolling your child or have any additional questions, feel free to contact my research team at NYUchildspeech@gmail.com. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

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