

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

IRB-FY2016-804

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 comparing several forms of therapy for “r” errors. In *acoustic biofeedback therapy*, we use a computer to create a visual representation of a child’s “r” sound, which can then be compared against a model “r” sound. In *ultrasound biofeedback therapy*, we use ultrasound imaging to create a picture of a child’s tongue, which can be compared against an ultrasound image of a correct “r” sound.

**We are looking for children/adolescents who:**

- Are 9-15 years old
- Are native speakers of English and have difficulty producing correct “r” sounds and have not made progress through regular speech therapy. Participants should have received speech therapy targeting “r” for at least one year with limited success.
- Have no history of major hearing, language or speech difficulties other than “r”

**What your child will do:**

- Prior to enrollment, your child will participate in an inclusion evaluation. The evaluation may last several sessions. Participants will be compensated for their time during evaluation sessions at a rate of \$20/hour. During the evaluation, we may perform the following:
  - Hearing screening
  - Standardized tests of speech and language
  - Speech production tasks
  - Perception tasks (auditory and oral sensory)
- This study has three phases.
  - In the first intensive phase (3 sessions, ~1.5 hours each, over the course of roughly one week), your child will work with a speech therapist who will verbally cue him/her to produce “r” in various contexts.
  - In the second intensive phase (3 sessions, ~1.5 hours each, over the course of roughly one week), your child will work with a speech therapist who will use biofeedback (acoustic or ultrasound) to cue him/her to produce “r” in various contexts.
  - In the third phase (16 sessions, ~45 minutes each, over the course of roughly eight weeks), your child will work with a speech therapist who will use a combination of biofeedback and verbal cues to elicit “r” in various contexts.
- After the completion of the study, your child will be asked to complete a follow-up evaluation. See description of inclusion evaluation.

**What you will do:**

- Fill out a questionnaire about your child’s developmental history, language experiences, and socioemotional response to his/her speech difficulties.

- If your child enrolls in this study, we will ask you to withdraw him/her from any other therapy targeting the “r” sound for the duration of the study. This will help us show that our participants’ progress is due to the treatment they receive in our study, rather than an outside therapy source. We are happy to speak with your child’s speech-language pathologist to make a plan for uninterrupted delivery of services.

**How long it will take:**

- Participation in this study will require your child’s attendance for 2-3 sessions per week over approximately 12 weeks.

**Location:**

- The study will take place in research space assigned to the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at NYU (665 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, or 726 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> floor).

**What you and your child will receive:**

- All therapy services provided are free of charge.
- Participants will be compensated for evaluation sessions at a rate of \$20/hour.

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 516-265-5389 or [NYUchildspeech@gmail.com](mailto:NYUchildspeech@gmail.com). Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Tara McAllister Byun, Ph.D., CCC-SLP