NYUSteinhardt
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

IRB-FY2016-804

Dear speech-language pathologist or educator,

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 participating children will do:

- Prior to enrollment, the participating child will participate in an inclusion evaluation. The evaluation may last several sessions. Participants will be compensated for their time during evaluation sessions. 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), the participant 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), the participant 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), the participant 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, the participant will be asked to complete a follow-up evaluation. See description of inclusion evaluation.

What you will do:

- If you would like to support this research, we will provide informational materials that you can distribute to the families of children who are receiving or have received

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intervention for speech sound errors. Interested families can contact us directly using the information in these fliers and letters.

- If a child on your caseload enrolls in this study, I will ask the parents to withdraw the child 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. However, it is important that children be allowed to return to their regular therapy schedules following participation in our study. I would be happy to speak with you to make a plan for uninterrupted delivery of services to children participating in our study.

How long it will take:

- Participation in this study will require the 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, 9th floor, or 726 Broadway, 5th floor).

What you and your child will receive:

- All therapy services provided are free of charge.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact my research team at 516-265-5389 or NYUchildspeech@gmail.com. Thank you for your time!

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