

Young Person's Information Sheet

We are asking you to take part in a research study. Please read the information and talk to your family about it. Ask us if anything that is not clear.

What is the research?

We have developed a therapy to help people with cerebral palsy speak more clearly. 30 children have tried the therapy. After the therapy most children were easier to understand. The children told us that other children should try the therapy.

This study will show if we can give the therapy over the internet, using Skype.

Why me?

We are asking children who have cerebral palsy and speech difficulties to join the study. Your mum or dad has said that you may want to part.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part. We will explain the study to you. If you want to take part you can sign a form. You can leave the study at any time. You do not have to say why. If you do not want to take part you will carry on with your usual therapy.

What does the study involve?

If you take part you will try new therapy at home over the internet or carry on with your usual therapy. If you carry on with your usual therapy you can try the new therapy at the end of the study.

New therapy

The new therapy is 3 times a week for 6 weeks. Each session lasts about 30 minutes.

Children will be at home at their computer. They will see the therapist on their computer screen and will be able to hear her.

Children will practice speaking louder and to control their breathing. Exercises will start with simple sounds (e.g. "ah"), and move onto words and sentences.

We will talk to children and their parents about the therapy. We will ask how easy it was to use Skype for therapy.



Usual therapy

Children carrying on with usual therapy will not change what they are doing in the therapy sessions.

We will talk to parents and children about what it was like to take part in the study. At the end of the study children can try the new therapy over the internet. The new therapy will be 3 times a week for 6 weeks.

Speech recordings

We will record children's speech before and after the therapy. We will make 10 recordings in total. We will record children counting, repeating words and describing pictures. Each recording will take about 15 minutes.

People who don't know the children in the study will listen to the recordings and write down the words they hear. We will check how many words people understand. This will show if children's speech is better after the therapy.

The new therapy may help your speech become clearer.

The new therapy may be tiring.

Trying the therapy will mean that you may miss some of your usual activities. We will arrange the therapy at times that are good for you.

If you try the new therapy you will not get other speech and language therapy for 18 weeks during the study.

If, for the study, you carry on therapy as usual you will have 6 weeks without any speech and language therapy. You will be offered the new therapy at the end of the study.

When will the study stop?

The study will take 26 weeks.

What if there is a problem?

If you are worried about anything in this study, you should speak to your usual speech and language therapist, [research speech therapist name and phone number] or Dr Lindsay Pennington (0191 282 1360).

Who will know I am taking part?

We will tell your speech and language therapist and your paediatrician that you are taking part. We will not tell anyone else. We will keep all information about the study private. Your name will not be used in the research.

What will happen to the results of the study?

We will write about the study and tell people about it at meetings. We will not use your name in the reports. We will send a report to you.

We do lots of research into children's speech to see if we can develop new therapies. If you agree, we will use the information we collect about you in other speech therapy research. We will not use your name in any future research.

Who is in charge of the research?

Dr Lindsay Pennington, at Newcastle University, is in charge of the study.

Naomi Parker and Helen Kelly - Research speech and language therapists

Tel: 0191 282 1382

Email – naomi.parker@newcastle.ac.uk and helen.kelly@newcastle.ac.uk

Thank you very much for reading this. If want to take part please sign the form or tell the researchers or your parents.