INTRODUCTION

Children with speech sound disorders (SSDs) often have difficulty with the perception and production of speech sounds. This difficulty can result in poor speech production, which in turn can lead to social problems and academic difficulties. The Nonword Repetition Task (NRT) is a test that has been used to assess children's speech production abilities. It involves having the child repeat nonwords, which are words that do not exist in the language. The NRT has been used as a screening tool for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to identify children who may need speech therapy.

METHODS

Participants. A total of 20 children (10 with SSDs and 10 typically developing children) participated in the study. The children with SSDs were diagnosed by a speech-language pathologist and had a history of speech therapy. The typically developing children were recruited from the local community.

Procedures. The children were asked to repeat a list of 16 nonwords, which were presented in a randomized order. The nonwords were recorded by a neutral adult and were presented through headphones at a comfortable listening level. The children were allowed to repeat the nonwords as many times as they needed. The number of consonants correct (PCC) and the number of total phonemes correct (PPC) were recorded for each child.

RESULTS

Was there a change in NRT production accuracy in young children with functional speech sound disorders (SSDs) after they completed an 8 week treatment program? 2) To compare the NRT accuracy of children with SSDs in young children with functional speech sound disorders (SSDs) after they completed an 8 week treatment program? 3) To examine the change in NRT production accuracy of children with SSDs correlated with speech treatment outcomes?

GOALS

1) To compare the NRT accuracy of children with SSDs in young children with functional speech sound disorders (SSDs) after they completed an 8 week treatment program? 2) To compare the NRT accuracy of children with SSDs in young children with functional speech sound disorders (SSDs) after they completed an 8 week treatment program? 3) To examine the change in NRT production accuracy of children with SSDs correlated with speech treatment outcomes?

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

While the PPC and PCC scores of the TD children did not significantly change across the scores, the children with SSD significantly improved. Thus, it appears that speech treatment may improve sublexical processing in children with SSD, as measured by the NRT.

Pre-treatment PPC scores were strongly correlated with other articulation and phonological assessments that were administered before, and after, treatment. Thus, NRT performance may be a prognostic indicator of speech treatment outcomes.

A performance comparison of the Nonword Repetition Task (NRT) in typically developing children and children with speech sound disorders

Anna Gaspar and Alycia Cunnings
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METHODS

Participants. Twelve children (5 boys, 7 girls) aged 4-6 years with functional SSDs were aged approximately 3 months in all age groups. The children were randomly assigned to the treatment or control group.

RESULTS

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