



EBP PAEDIATRIC SPEECH GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE – 2008

Introduction

The EBP Paediatric Speech Group was formed in 2003. Most members are practicing clinicians who work with children who have a speech sound disorder (SSD). Group members have a range of experience, some may be recent graduates, others have many years of experience.

The group aims to review the evidence available in the literature relating to the management of children with speech sound disorders (e.g., articulation impairments, phonological impairment, childhood apraxia of speech). The group has a strong focus on integrating clinical research with clinical expertise and client values. This means a portion of group meetings is devoted to case discussion, sharing of clinical expertise, in conjunction with the review, development and/or sharing of resources. The integration of research evidence with expertise and clinical cases within our meetings facilitates the translation of research to practice. Wider issues relevant to administration and service delivery (as opposed to individual cases) are considered, in light of research evidence.

Clinicians not attending meetings, who may access the appraised articles and topics on line, are encouraged to read the complete article for a comprehensive understanding of the author's/authors' research.

Operation

The meetings will operate to an agenda. Agenda items can be forwarded to one of the co-leaders one week prior to meetings, however additional agenda items can be added at the time of the meeting.

The chairperson is usually one of the co-leaders of the group.

Topics to appraise are selected by the group based on clinical need and applicability. Typically, two papers are appraised at each meeting. Half the group will evaluate one paper, the other half will be allocated the second paper.

The meetings typically have several components, including; discussion of the critically appraised papers; specific discussion about the clinical applicability of the study; case study discussions; resource development and sharing. Sometimes, when the topic selected is particularly complex, a brief presentation/workshop relating to the topic may also be part of the meeting.

Minutes are taken at each meeting, usually by one of the co-leaders or another volunteer.

Phone conferencing is available for rural or outer metropolitan areas, if the respective sites are able to share costs. Teleconferencing is not available at the current meeting location.

Membership

Graduated speech pathologists who have a focus on speech sound disorders in their current workplace are able to join the EBP paediatric speech group. Most members are clinicians working in community health centres or hospital settings. Student speech pathologists can only attend the meetings with their clinical educator.

Members who do not complete any CAPs within a one year time frame will not remain on the EBP Paediatric Speech group list. However, they will still be able to access the CAPs and CATs online. Speech pathologists who are on maternity leave, and notify one of the co-leaders of this, will remain on the current group list.

Meetings

There are four meetings per year. Currently the meetings are held at The University of Sydney, Cumberland Campus. The specific location is: the Communication Disorders Research and Treatment Clinic, Faculty of Health Sciences, Block S, East St, Lidcombe, NSW. The meeting dates will be set at the first meeting of each year.