Methodology: Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods.

Sample: 10 children aged 3;0-4;11 with severe language difficulties and their parents.

Quantitative phase: Multiple Baselines Design. Communicative ability will be measured using Pre-School Language Scale (5th Ed.) Measurements will be taken:
1) At consent to study
2) Half-way point on NHS waiting list
3) 1 week prior starting intervention
4) Post intervention.

Intervention: VERVE Child Interaction Therapy (Cummins, 2015). 4 weeks direct therapy sessions followed by 6 week consolidation period.

Qualitative phase: Parental interview post intervention.

Aim: Investigate impact of VERVE on communicative ability in preschool children with language difficulties.

Results

Quantitative: Statistical analysis in 3 stages:
1. Visual analysis of trends
2. Paired t-test of average language scores pre and post intervention.
3. Regression analysis to account for external factors.

Qualitative: Thematic Analysis as per Braun and Clarke (2013)

Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative data:
Use the qualitative data to explain the mechanisms behind the quantitative results. Why did we get these results?

Next steps

- PPI – parent feedback forums throughout
- HRA and NHS Trust approval granted November 18
- Recruitment and informed consent completed
- Quantitative phase started: Baseline measurement 1 completed for all participants.
- Data analysis
- Write up
- Dissemination