

Turning Clinical Work into a Research Project – An Evaluation of Colourful Semantics

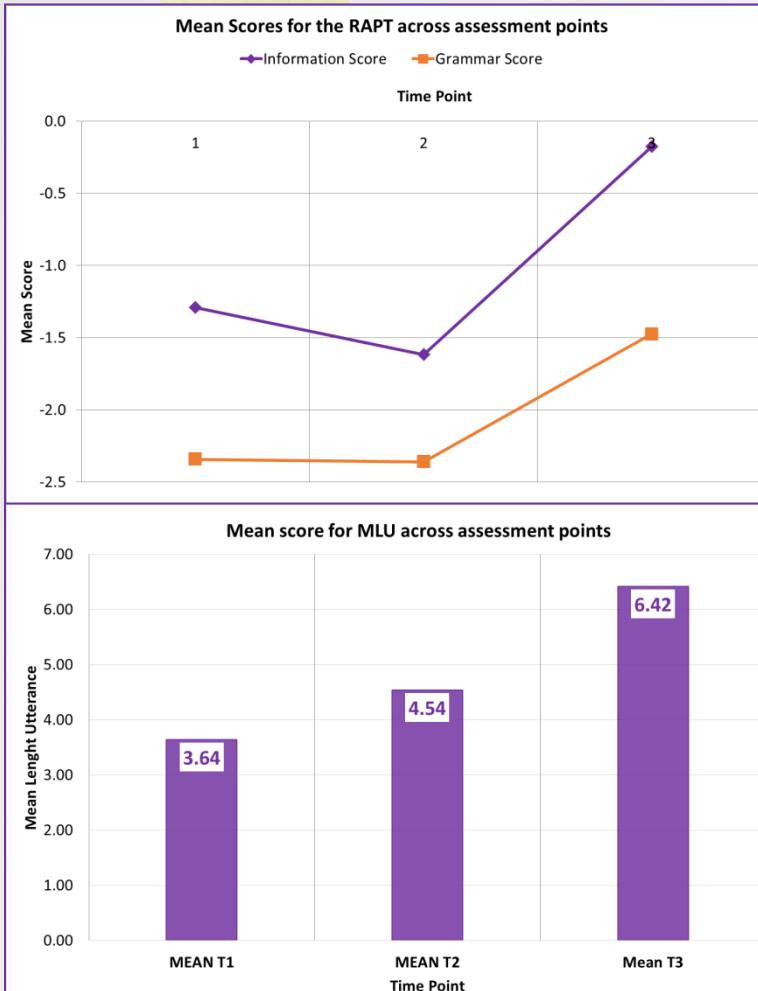
Evidence Based Practice

over to you →

Background

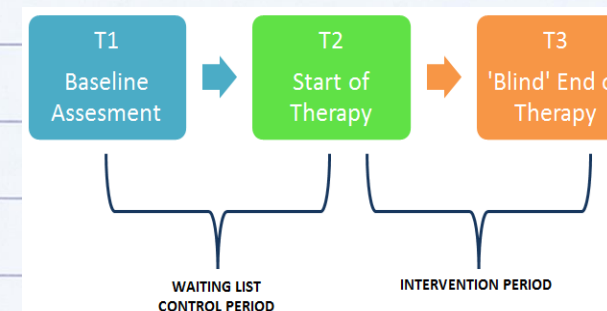
- Our team are committed to the use of evidence based practice to inform service improvements and attract continued support from commissioners. We aimed to use our clinical work as the basis of a small research project to evaluate an intervention offered by our team.
- Colourful Semantics (1) is a popular language intervention in the UK, with a growing evidence base (2). This intervention is currently offered within our department as a 1:1 intervention delivered by a SALT, and the aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of this therapy.

Graphs



The Activity

- Within participant, single baseline design; each child served as his or her own control (via the waiting list)
- Six children (4 boys and 2 girls, aged 4-6 years) with expressive language difficulties participated.
- Intervention = Colourful Semantics, delivered by a SALT for up to six, 30 minute clinic sessions.
- The children were measured at three time points to determine progress



- Outcome measures - RAPT and MLU

Recommendations

The results of this small pilot study are very encouraging and warrant a larger investigation.

Next steps to address limitations of the study include:

- Larger sample size
- Adding a control measure for each target area
- Completing multiple baselines
- Collecting data following a consolidation period to check retention of learning

The Impact

Significant progress was seen in all assessed areas. One factor within-participant ANOVAs were used to analyse the data.

RAPT – There was a statistically significant change during therapy (Grammar $p=0.002$, Information $p=0.005$) compared to no significant change during the control period (Grammar $p=0.623$, Information $p=0.378$)

MLU – There was a significant change during therapy ($p=0.011$), vs no significant change during the control period ($p=0.164$)

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REFERENCES

- Bryan, (1997). Colourful semantics. In: Chiat et al, Language disorders in children and adults. London: Whurr, 143–61.
- Bolderson et al, (2011) 'Colourful semantics: A clinical investigation' Child Language Teaching and Therapy 27, 344-353

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