

Taking Part

If you would like your child to take part, please complete the consent form and background questionnaire enclosed.

We hope your child can get involved and help us learn more about how children use and understand prosody.



Prosody Study

Information Leaflet for Parents and Carers

Profiling Receptive and Expressive Prosodic Skills in Children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus



Contact

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Speech and Language Therapists:



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For more information, please visit:

www.ucc.ie/en/hrb-prosody

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The Study

My name is Alice Lee. I am a Speech and Language Therapist and a Lecturer in University College Cork. We are working on a research project funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) on prosodic skills in children with spina bifida and typically developing children.



What is Prosody?

Prosody is a very important component in everyday communication. It adds to the verbal messages by conveying information on the speaker's attitude, mood, and emotion. "It's not what you say, but the way that you say it" summarises the meaning carried through prosody.



Participants of this Study

We are looking for children who are:

- ✓ Aged between 7 years and 12 years.
- ✓ Have a diagnosis of spina bifida with shunted hydrocephalus.
- ✓ Have no known hearing difficulties.
- ✓ Are English speakers (Exposed to Irish-English at school and/or at home for 3 years).
- ✓ Have lived in Ireland for the last 3 years.

What will your Child have to do?

Your child will be seen at a local clinic (or in school) at a time and date that suits you. The research tasks will take place over 2/3 sessions, each lasting 1 hour approx.:

Session 1: • Quick hearing test • Story telling task • Language comprehension test • Parent questionnaire.

Session 2: • Language production test • Examination of oral structures (e.g. tongue, lips).

Session 3: • Prosody test
(A computerised test operated by one of our Speech and Language Therapists).



All research tasks will be carried out by one of our qualified Speech and Language Therapists. With your consent, the sessions will be audio recorded for further analysis. A parent/guardian/teacher must be present during the sessions.

If your child asks to stop, the task will be stopped immediately.

At the end of the last session, your child will receive a certificate and a €15 Smyths Toy voucher. We can provide mileage costs to the clinic and cover parking expenses.

What will we do with your Child's data?

Your child's data will be recorded and analysed. At all times, information will be kept confidential and secure.

The research findings will be presented at professional conferences and published in academic Journals; however, no identifying information of any child will be mentioned (except the age, gender and scores).

CONFIDENTIAL



Benefits of this Study

The findings of this project will inform best practice in speech and language therapy services, which could potentially lead to better long-term outcomes related to communication, such as independence, employment, post-secondary education and socialisation for people with spina bifida.

