

Focus Group Topic Guide. Based on Pennington, L., Rauch, R., Smith, J., & Brittain, K. (2020). Views of children with cerebral palsy and their parents on the effectiveness and acceptability of intensive speech therapy. *Disability and rehabilitation*, 42(20), 2935-2943.

We will run two focus groups: one for families in the ultrasound group and one for families in the articulation therapy group. Children over 12 will be invited to attend and the questions to children will be asked first, after which they may choose to leave the group or stay.

Questions Directed at the Children.

Introductions

“Welcome everybody, thank you for joining the group to talk about your experiences of taking part in the speech therapy research project. I am Joanne Cleland, I work at the University of Strathclyde as a Speech and Language Therapy researcher and I was involved in the project. X (The research SLT who you met during the project) is also here. We are going to start by chatting about the project with the young people who took part. This will take about 45mins, after which we will chat with the parents and carers for about 45mins. Does anyone have any questions before we go round and introduce everyone else?”

- Icebreaker- introductions round the room

Recording reminder (to be read after the introductions, after-which the recording will start):

“We will now start recording the session. This session is being recorded so that we can use the discussions to help us design a bigger study. After the session we will transcribe the audio, removing any names or information that might identify you, and then delete the audio and video. If you need to leave the session for a break then please mute your microphone and turn off your camera. If you want to leave the session completely you can just leave the call. We will contact you after the session to check how you are”.

- What has it been like taking part in this study? Can you remember what you liked best about taking part in the research?
- We are hoping to take this study further with lots of families –
 - Is there any way we could make it better?
 - Is there anything else you think we should change?
- Is there anything about the therapy you had that you think works better than your usual therapy? (i.e. without ultrasound)?
- What do you think hasn't worked so well?
- Was there anything about using Ultrasound/articulation therapy that didn't work as well as your usual therapy?
- Would you recommend this new therapy (for ultrasound group only) to other people?
- What would you tell them about the therapy?
 - How would you describe it to your friends/ other parents/ children and young people?
 - How easy was it to do all the things we asked you to do?

- Do you think the therapy worked, did it help with your talking?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- We are hoping to take this study further into a definitive study with lots of families –
 - Is there any way we could make it better?
 - Is there anything else you think we should change?
- Is there anything in particular about using ultrasound/articulation approaches for therapy that stood out for you?
- Do you think there are any advantages to ultrasound (ultrasound group only)?
 - What are they? Why is that?
- Do you think there are any disadvantages to using ultrasound (ultrasound group only) for SLT?
 - What are they? Why is that?
- Did you support your child in practicing at home?
 - How have you done that?
 - If not, why?
- Would you recommend ultrasound (ultrasound group only) to other people?
- What would you tell them about the therapy?
 - How would you describe it to your friends/ other parents/ children and young people?
- What was it like taking part in the research?
- You did a lot of visits to the hospital/university. Was this ok?
 - How do you feel about the recordings being listened to by other people (to measure intelligibility)?
- Do you think that anything has been missed?
- What could make the research better?
- How could we make it easier for families to take part?
- Overall, was having the therapy okay – if you think about the time taken up by visits and therapy and the overall impact on family life?
- Was it acceptable?
 - Have you had to make any changes to your usual routine? How was that?
 - How have the other members of the family found it?
- Do you think the therapy worked, is your child's speech clearer?

- Is there anything you would like to add? Anything you have thought about taking part in the project that we haven't asked about?

Thank parents and children for joining the group.