

## Parent and Clinician Perspectives on the FOCUS

Focus on the  
Outcomes of  
Communication  
Under  
Six



## Research Team

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## Began searching for an outcome measure.

- Found only two outcome measures for children with a variety of communication disorders.
- Neither measure had proven reliability, validity or responsiveness (i.e. ability to measure change).

## Goal

- To develop a new outcome measure for preschool children called the 'FOCUS' that identifies 'real world' changes associated with speech therapy.
- To begin to evaluate its reliability, validity and responsiveness to change.

## Method: 6 Linked-Steps

1. Analyzed our qualitative data to derive questions.
2. Tested measure with clinicians and families.
3. Revised measure.
4. Tested the revised measure.
5. Revised measure again.
6. Tested final measure and evaluated reliability/validity.

## FOCUS

- We based the FOCUS on the WHO ICF-CY model and used 'real world' data.
- FOCUS items were developed from observations of change from parents and clinicians following therapy.
- Items used parents own wording.

## FOCUS

- FOCUS has been tested with 165 families.
- FOCUS reduced from 103 to 50 items.
- Now takes 10 minutes to complete.

## Phase 3 Validity Testing

- The parents of 22 children completed both the FOCUS and the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (PedsQL) at the start and end of a treatment block.
- The PedsQL, Measurement Model is a modular approach to measuring health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in children and adolescents.

## Results

- The amount of change measured by the FOCUS was correlated with higher PedsQL scores ( $r = .488$ ,  $p = .04$ ,  $n = 18$ ) indicating that positive treatment outcomes were associated with higher quality of life.

## Discussion

- Positive correlations between FOCUS scores and the PedsQL indicate that the FOCUS is sensitive to changes in 'communicative participation'.
- Thus demonstrating construct validity.

## Discussion

- The changes measured by the FOCUS are endorsed by parents' and clinicians' observations of 'real world' change.
- The 'high change' items were the same for both parents and clinicians.

## BUT...

- More research is needed with larger numbers of children to prove that the FOCUS works well for children who have a variety of communication disorders and severities.