

**Critical Review:**  
**Do therapy protocols focusing on breath support help to improve intelligibility in children with dysarthria resulting from cerebral palsy?\***

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This critical review examines the effectiveness of therapy targeting breath support on improving intelligibility in school-aged children with dysarthria secondary to cerebral palsy. Four articles were included in the review. All of the studies included were of a single subject

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which may have had an acclimatization impact on the listeners to the voices of the participants.

Despite these limitations, this study also had strengths including a well-defined therapy plan with strict progression criteria, which allows for replicability, and appropriate inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. The listeners were also blinded to the time of the sample. Given the strengths and weaknesses of this study, it provides equivocal evidence for the use of

the differing responses to therapy of the individual children was also noted.

The Pennington et al. (2013) study possessed some of the same limitations as the Pennington et al. (2010) study such as a lack of intervention administration reliability measures and differing total sessions administered to each student. Furthermore, the Pennington et al. (2013) study also experienced some limitations concerning inter-rater reliability. The inter-rater reliability for familiar listeners was low for single words (0.47) as well as connected speech (0.31). Additionally, the second recording was being rated consistently lower in intelligibility than the first recording of the same collection time by unfamiliar listeners.



