

Critical Review: Across all ages of AAC users, do Augmented Input strategies improve communicative outcomes?

Claire Lovero
M.Cl.Sc SLP

(Aided Language Stimulation) AND (Autism)
(Augmented Input) AND (Developmental
Disabilities)
(Naturalistic Language Intervention)

Selection Criteria

To meet inclusion criteria, studies were required to be
peer-reviewed and published after the year 2000.
They were required to

activity. The intervention period was conducted during a preferred play activity for the child, while the experimenters followed a scripted routine. Experimenters named the novel objects while simultaneously pointing to the representing symbol four times each. Appropriate measurement tools were used to assess the skills of the participants during baseline, intervention and post-intervention periods. All participants maintained their level of performance in post-intervention probes and required less sessions in stages two and three, to reach criteria for comprehension and production of the target symbols.

Appropriate statistical analysis yielded evidence that ALS promotes comprehension and production (labelling) of objects in young children with moderate cognitive disabilities and limited functional speech.

The study was limited by the small sample size. Despite this, the results of the study provide compelling evidence concerning the use of ALS as a form of AI

Limitations of the study include an unequal representation of disability groups, age and language ability resulting in a restricted data set represented. Even so, this review provides compelling clinical evidence for the use of AI as an intervention to improve upon a variety of communication skills in children with complex communication needs.

Discussion

This review analyzed eight studies to determine the efficacy of AI as an intervention to improve a range of communicative outcomes for AAC users. Although there is some variation in the clinical importance and validity of the studies reported, the overall

presented in this review demonstrates that Augmented Input could lead to improvement in a variety of communicative outcomes for AAC users. Because of the wide variety of ages, disabilities, strategies and treatment durations this strategy can be used with, it is imperative that we continue to study this intervention method, to determine which method and treatment duration will be most beneficial to improve communicative functions in individuals of varying ages and needs.

