

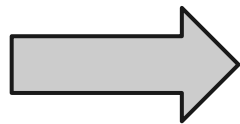
Buddy Feedback

Justina Heintz, MS, CCC-SLP/ TSHA 2015

Up to 7.5% of school-aged children in the United States are affected by speech sound disorders with approximately 28% of these making no measurable progress in treatment. For these children, alternative methodologies are indicated. The current study tests a relatively cost-effective methodology in tactile biofeedback delivered via Speech Buddies® tool set.

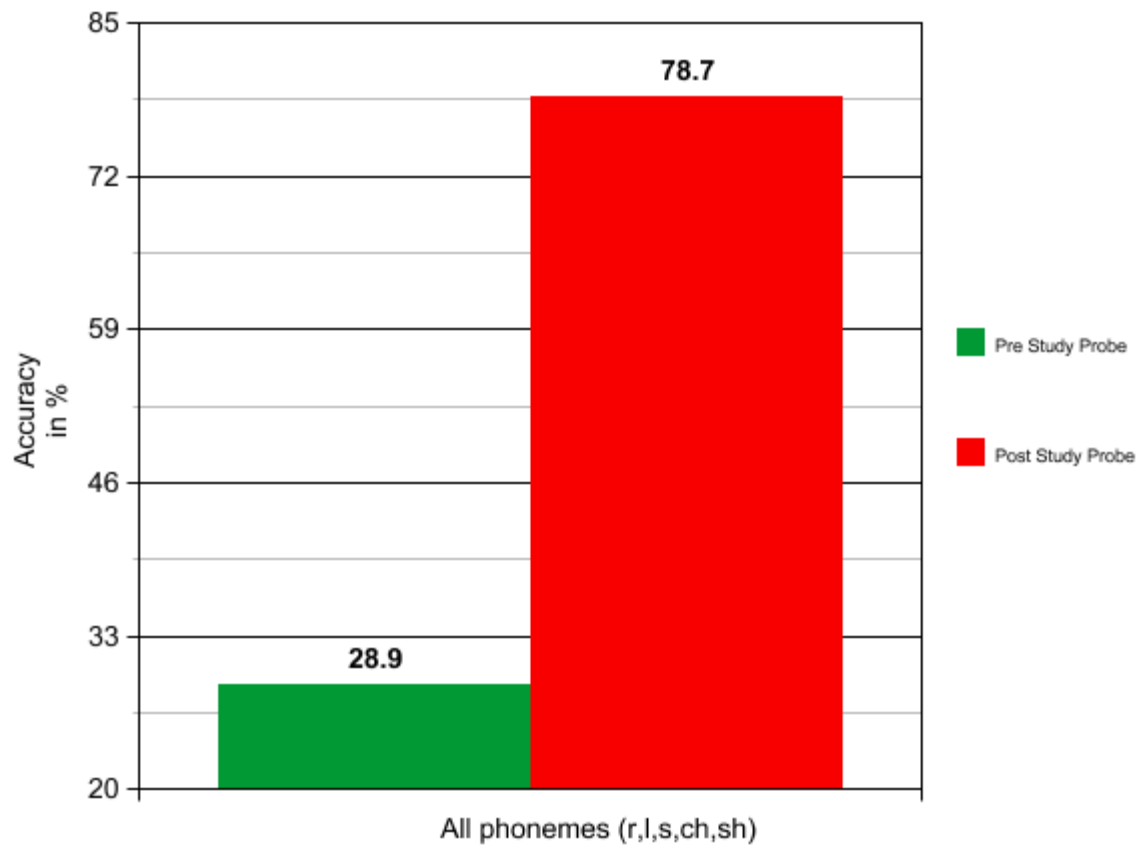
The reason behind the study:

Working in the school district with treatment resistant students, Speech/Language Pathologists (SLP) are looking for something in addition to traditional therapy to increase rate of articulation skill attainment of their students.



Enter Speech Buddies®

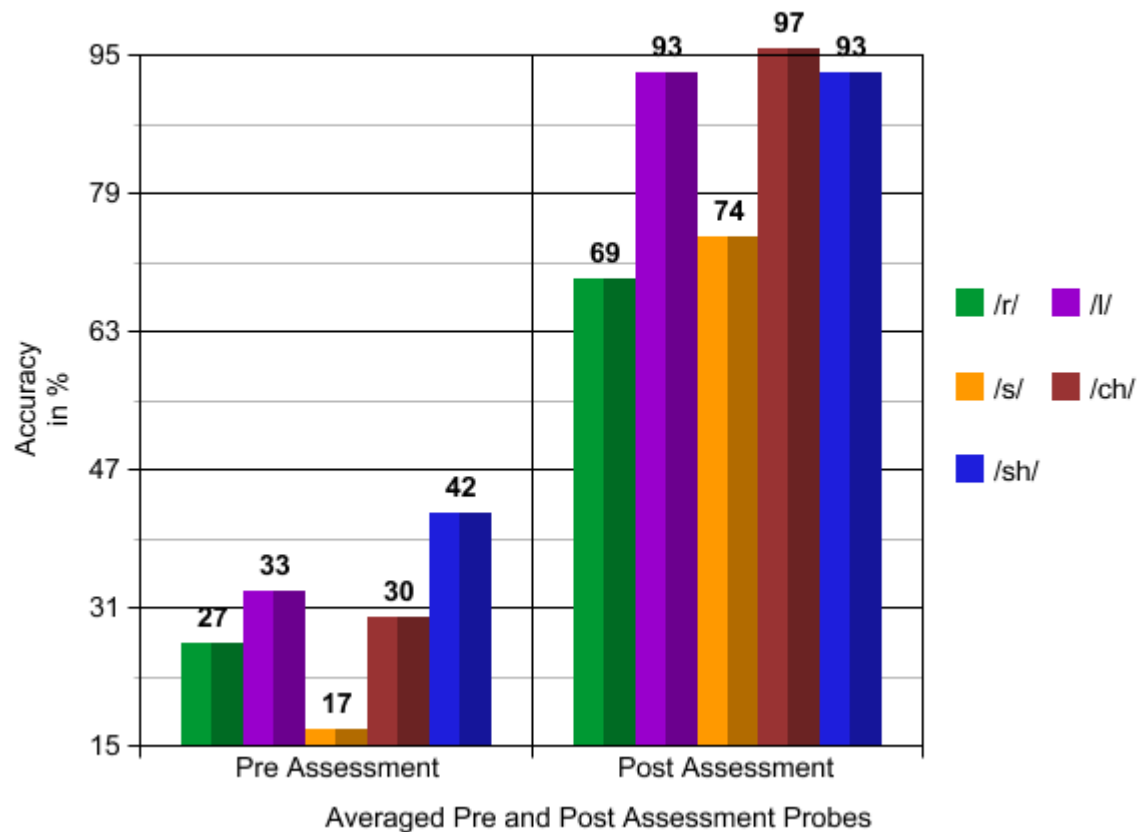
Pre versus Post Study Probe Assessment



Study Design:

1. Pre Test (using set sample of words)
 - a. no glamour: articulation LinguiSystems
2. Therapy (with only Speech Buddies®) at least 8 sessions
 - a. Probes completed after every 2 sessions
 - b. Pre/Post test words not used during therapy
3. Post Test (using set sample of words)
 - a. no glamour: Articulation LinguiSystems

Pre and Post Assessment of Studied Phonemes



Is the difference between production accuracy significant?

	N	Mean	St Dev	SE Mean
Sample 1	20	25.9	22.7825	5.094
Sample 2	20	79	22.5878	5.051

Mean 1-Mean 2	t	df	p value
-50.1	-6.98	38	<.0001

There is a very small probability of this result occurring by chance.
There is strong evidence using Speech Buddies® as an intervention method improves marks.

Outcomes:

- **Caseload:** children with articulation disorders may be dismissed from speech at a quicker rate = smaller caseloads
- **Student Confidence:** students may not have to spend entire elementary school educational experience receiving speech therapy
- **Further research topics:** Would the breakdown of phonemes, specifically /r/ show greater improvement, longitudinal studies, comparative studies (newly admitted versus chronic speech students)

SLP Quotes:

- “Kinder student is very slushy and requires prompts for correct production but I hadn’t been able to elicit prior to implementing SB into therapy. Now he is able to produce the /s/ in words and phrases”
- “X has been working on the /ch/ for over 3 years without significant progress and now, after Speech Buddies, he can produce the sounds at the word level”
- “X is on his way to producing his sound in sentence and conversation”
- “Major improvement at the word level on the accuracy of /s/ production. Student made comment she felt it really helped her remember placement for correct production.”
- “X was having difficulty with this /sh/ and since using the Speech Buddies he is now producing it independently in words and with a verbal prompt in sentences.”
- “Speech Buddies elicited increased production of the prevocalic /r/. X is producing it independently in words.”
- “X has been working on /r/ over 3 years, he is now producing /r/ with 80% accuracy.”
- “X was more engaged and willing to try to correct the /r/ phoneme production because she had a “cool” tool to use.”

Disclaimer:

Justina Heintz, MS, CCC-SLP has indicated she has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.