

## Clinical Study Shows Efficacy of Speech Buddies in Treating Speech Disorders

*Journal to Publish Significant Clinical Results*

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**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., January 21, 2014** – A new research study shows that Speech Buddies, a set of tools that provide tactile feedback to remediate speech disorders, helped children learn to overcome their speech difficulty faster than children who did not use these tools.

The clinical efficacy study concludes that the children who used Speech Buddies during the course of speech therapy achieved statistically significant mastery of their problem sound in a short-duration therapy regimen. The children who used traditional methods of speech therapy without Speech Buddies did not show mastery of their problem sound.

"This study has profound implications for the field of speech therapy," said Gordy Rogers, MS CCC-SLP, Chief Scientific Officer of Articulate Technologies, Inc., the makers of Speech Buddies. "When we developed these tools, our goal was to bring innovative technology to speech therapy and to help children find a faster path out of therapy and back into the classroom. This study demonstrates that more precise technology can really improve outcomes in speech therapy just like it does in other disciplines like medicine, physical therapy and dentistry."

7.5 percent of school-age children have an articulation disorder. An articulation disorder (such as a lisp, or not pronouncing the /r/ sound correctly) is generally treated by speech therapy lessons that include auditory and visual cues. While some children find measurable success in traditional speech therapy, 28 percent do not.<sup>1</sup> Speech Buddies are the first FDA-listed tool to add a systematic, consistent tactile cue to more effectively treat articulation disorders.

The clinical study enrolled 20 elementary school children and examined the efficacy of tactile feedback using Speech Buddies to teach correct production of the /s/ sound. Children participating had never before received any form of speech therapy and every child had either a frontal or lateral lisp speech error, which makes the /s/ sound distorted or unintelligible when they speak. These children were split into two groups and given speech therapy lessons with a certified speech-language pathologist. Half of the children used Speech Buddies in these lessons, the other half did not. The study was a randomized, controlled, single-blind study, considered the gold standard for clinical efficacy trials.

After four total hours of therapy, the children were evaluated by a judge who did not know whether or not Speech Buddies were used in the therapy process and the child's speaking accuracy of the /s/ sound was measured. The research showed that 88% of the children who used Speech Buddies during therapy had mastered the /s/ sound compared to just 43% of the children who did not use these tools. These results will be published in the Journal of the Pennsylvania Speech Language Hearing Association at the end of this month.

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<sup>1</sup> Gregory Jacoby et al., "[The Number of Individual Treatment Units Necessary to Facilitate Functional Communication Improvements in the Speech and Language of Young Children](#)," American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology 11 (2002): 370-80.

"The wide prevalence of speech disorders in children indicates the need for more treatment options," said Alexey Salamini, CEO of Articulate Technologies, Inc. "This study shows that Speech Buddies can change lives. Every speech-language-pathologist and parent of a child with speech disorders deserves access to these tools and we are working to make that a reality."

The study was conducted by Rogers and Megan Chesin, Department of Psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons Columbia University. For more information on Speech Buddies, please visit <http://www.speechbuddy.com>.

About Articulate Technologies, Inc.:

Articulate Technologies is committed to improving the lives of people living with speech and communication disorders by providing clinically proven treatment options. Articulate Technologies was born from a team of speech pathologists and MIT trained engineers who were frustrated by the lack of new technology available to speech therapists. Articulate Technologies' first product line, [Speech Buddies](#), are designed to treat articulation disorders in children. The company launched a follow-on product line, [Language Buddies](#) in 2012 that enables correct pronunciation for children and adults learning to speak English.