



Evaluating and Treating Adolescents Who Stutter  
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### Disclosure

- Dr. Robinson has financial disclosure. He is receiving an honorarium for this presentation.
- Dr. Robinson has no non-financial disclosure for this presentation.



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### Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to:
  - Understand the theoretical constructs relative to treating adolescents who stutter
  - Design service delivery models for addressing speech fluency issues in adolescents
  - Provide speech fluency services to adolescents with confidence



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### Introduction

- Feeling comfortable
- Experience
- Knowledge of general speech and language difficulties
- Understanding normal nonfluencies
- Understanding normal disfluencies
- Broad theoretical knowledge base
- Fun
- Exciting
- Hands on
- Frequency



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### Stuttering Defined



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### The Basics About Stuttering: *Defined*

- A disorder of speech-communication
- There is no universal definition
- Researchers have debated this issue for years
- Key words such as rate, rhythm, duration, flow of speech



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## The Basics About Stuttering:

### Onset

**TWO-YEARS-OLD**  **FOUR-YEARS-OLD** 

• Stuttering begins for most children who stutter **between 2 and 4 years of age**

• Most SLPS notice closer to 2 ½ -3

• Most parents notice closer to 4



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## The Basics About Stuttering:

### General Facts

- **Prevalence**
  - % of individuals who stutter at a randomly selected moment in time
    - = 1% of school-age population
- **Lifetime Incidence**
  - % of the population who have stuttered at any time in their lives
    - = 5% of population
- **Familial Incidence**
  - For 50% or more of people who stutter, at least one other family member also stutters (*this does NOT cause stuttering*)
- **Sex Ratio**
  - 3 boys: 1 girl (on average)
- **Spontaneous Recovery**
  - At least 50 - 70% exhibit improvement without treatment within the first 12-24 months of onset



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## Acquired versus Developmental Stuttering

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developmental</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Accounts for vast majority of stuttering cases</li> <li>– Onset typically before 7 years of age, but can be as late as 12</li> <li>– In 70% of cases, onset is gradual, with NO known psychic and/or physical trauma associated with 90% or more of cases</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acquired</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Accounts for small percentage of stuttering cases</li> <li>– Onset typically later in life</li> <li>– Usually follows some psychological or physical (usually the latter) trauma</li> <li>– Sudden onset, typically</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Stuttering Components

- Disfluencies
- Secondary Mannerisms
- Poor attitude/self concept



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## Types of Speech Disfluency

- **Between-Word Speech Disfluencies**
  - (Typical/Non-stuttered/Other/Supramorphemic)
    - Phrase repetitions (PR)
    - Revisions (REV)
    - Interjections (INJ)
- **Within-Word Speech Disfluencies**
  - (Atypical/Stuttered/Stuttered-like/Inframorphemic)
    - Monosyllabic whole-word repetitions (WWR)
    - Sound/syllable repetitions (SSR)
    - Audible sound prolongations (ASP)
    - Inaudible sound prolongations ('blocks') (ISP)



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## Types of Speech Disfluency

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nonstuttering-like Disfluencies (nonSLD)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Phrase repetitions (PR)</li> <li>– Revisions (REV)</li> <li>– Interjections (INJ)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stuttering-like Disfluencies (SLD)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole word Repetitions (WWR)</li> <li>• Sound/syllable repetitions (SSR)</li> <li>• Interjections (INJ)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Total Disfluencies (TD)**

**# TD = #nonSLD + #SLD**

- **Typically,**
  - CWS produce ≥ 10 TD per 100 words (10%)
  - CWNS produce ≤ 10 TD per 100 words (≈ 8%)



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## Stuttered-like disfluencies (SLD)

- **Typically,**
  - CWS produce  $\geq 3$  SLDs per 100 words (3%)
  - CWNS produce  $\leq 2$  SLDs per 100 words (2%)
- Yairi (1997), Ambrose & Yairi (1999), and Pellowski & Conture (2002) report that children who stutter (CWS) exhibit, on average, between **66 to 81% SLD per total disfluencies** while children who do not stutter (CWNS) exhibit, on average, only between **24 to 42% SLD per total disfluencies**



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## Overarching Principles

- Multicultural Considerations
- Theoretically Based
- Carryover/Maintenance
- Data Keeping
- Counseling

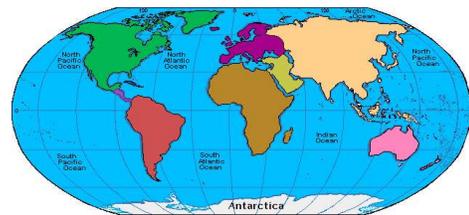


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Multiculturalism



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## Cultural Considerations

- Cultural Competence
- Cultural Humility
- Use of Language
- Events in the Life Cycle
- Rules for Interaction
- Topic Exchange
- Narrative Discourse
- Acceptance



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Theoretical Construct



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## Summary of Theories

### Psychological

- Repressed Need
- Influence of Parents
- Personality Disorders and Stuttering

### Learning

- Anticipatory Struggle
- Diagnosogenic
- Continuity Hypothesis
- Operant Conditioning
- Two-Factor



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## Theories Continue

### Physiological

- Cerebral Dominance
- Genetics
- Cognitive Linguistic
- Covert Repair
- Cybernetic and Feedback Model

### Multifactorial

- Demand and Capacities Model
- Dynamic Multifactorial Model
- Neurophysiological Model



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## Theories of Stuttering

- You messed me up!
- I think; therefore, I am.
- The system ain't working.
- Now what could it be?



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## Factors that Influence Stuttering

- Relatives who stutter
- Variability of the behavior
- Education
- Parents' expectations
- Second language acquisition
- Language
- Maturation of the brain
- Events in their lives
- Temperament



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## The Evaluation Process



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## The Evaluation Process



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### Other Communication Disorders

- Voice
- Hearing
- Articulation
- Linguistic Organization
- Aphasia
- Word Finding
- Oral Motor Dysfunction
- Vocabulary Issues



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### Other Fluency Disorders

- Cluttering
- Spasmodic Dysphonia
- Linguistic Disfluency
- Neurogenic Acquired Stuttering
- Normal Disfluency



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### Culture

- Typical Behavior
- Attitude



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### Other Disorders or Issues

- Autism
- Psychological
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Cognitive Impairments
- Aphasia
- Stroke
- Medications
- Malingering
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Second Language Acquisition



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### Diagnostic Protocol

- Stuttering Severity Instrument (SSI3)
- Language
- Voice
- Speech Samples
  - Conversation
  - Narrative Discourse
  - Interactions
- Articulation
- Oral Motor
- Cognition



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### Other Areas

- Neurogenic
- Psychological



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### Trial Therapy

- Which Strategies work
- What happens when you do this?
- Quick therapy session



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### Data Analyses

- Syllables/minute
- Number of disfluencies/100 words
- Percent of disfluencies
- Number of fluent words
- Types of disfluent words
- Rate of speech



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### CALMS



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### CALMS

- Cognitive-(thinking)
- **Affective-** (feeling)
- Linguistic-(forming the message)
- **Motor-** (producing speech)
- **Social-**(normal communication)



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### The CALMS Model of Stuttering

#### Cognitive

- Thoughts
- Perceptions
- Awareness
- Understanding

#### Linguistic

- Language skills
- Language formulation demands
- Discourse

#### Motor

- Sensory-motor control of speech movements

#### Social

- Effects of type of listener and speaking situation

#### Affective

- Feelings
- Emotions
- Attitudes

<http://www.unl.edu/fluency/stuttering>



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### Cognitive: Child's knowledge, understanding and awareness of stuttering

Thoughts of identity as a person who stutters and how others view them

#### Therapy Ideas:

- Talk about talking
- Increase Knowledge of stuttering
- Understand Mechanisms of Speech
- Increase Self-Monitoring
- Change Negative Thinking
- Develop Question of the Week Journal



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**Affective:** Feelings and emotions regarding stuttering

- Response to teasing, other people's reactions, and avoidance of stuttering
- Self-image

Therapy Ideas:

1. Playing with Stuttering
2. Teach others how to stutter
3. Use objects to represent stuttering



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**Linguistic:** Level of fluency and how it affects overall language ability, articulation and phonological ability

Therapy Ideas:

1. Select topic or theme
2. Systemically increase linguistic complexity
3. Use linguistic context to support speech modification skills
4. Integrate linguistic level with other CALMS components



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**Motor:** SSI-3 integrated into this section

- Secondary behaviors, frequency and duration of disfluencies
  - types and characteristics of disfluencies
  - frequency of stuttering with different partners

Therapy Ideas:

1. Increase use of speech modification strategies  
The 3 D's ( Discuss, Demonstrate, Drill)
2. Create speech "tool box"
3. Contextualize, Conceptualize, Generalize
4. Have child rate performance



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**Social:** avoidance of situations and degree of stuttering in certain situations

- Impact on peer relationships

Therapy Ideas:

1. Don't hide stuttering
2. Homework assignments (short, negotiate)
3. Role play in speaking situations
4. Take therapy on the road in different situations



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Rules for Intervention



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Things to Consider in Treatment

- Breath Control
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Relaxation



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## Philosophical Strategies

### Fluency Shaping

- Modeling
- Slow and Easy
- Fast and Hard
- Behavioral
- Highly Structured
- Quantitative

### Stuttering Modification

- Inserting Purposeful Disfluent Moments
- Self Reflecting
- Modifying Stuttering
- Attention to Attitudes, Fears and Avoidance
- Qualitative



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## Designing the Treatment Plan



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Before designing treatment,  
you should know...

- Stuttering severity
- Age of the Patient/Student/Client
- Any secondary Behaviors?
- Parental availability?
- Exacerbating factors?
- Recommendations from Dx



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## Stuttering Severity

- Frequency of stuttering
  - Serves as a baseline for tx
- Duration of stuttering
  - Longer durations = higher severity
- Most common disfluency type
  - WWR vs. ISPs
- SSI-4 score
  - Based on frequency, duration and secondary behaviors



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## Age of Child

- Age of child determines whether tx is direct or indirect
- **Young children** (≈ 3- to 6- years)
  - Typically indirect because of low/no concern or awareness
- **School-age children** (≈ 7- to 12- years)
  - Typically direct because of some concern and awareness
- **Adolescents**
  - May not want to be in tx anyway!



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## Secondary Behaviors

- Are disfluencies associated with physical behaviors
  - i.e., eye blinking, foot tapping, poor eye contact
- Are there any psychosocial behaviors present
  - Selective mutism, severe anxiety with speaking, Attention Deficit issues



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### Parental Availability

- How much access do you have to the parent?
  - Consistent weekly face-to-face access?
  - Parental access by phone?
  - Access to grandparents/aunts or uncles?
  - No access at all?



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### Exacerbating Factors

- We do not know what *causes* stuttering; only know what *exacerbates* stuttering
- Dissociations in speech and/or language
- Emotional factors
  - Highly reactive to change?
  - Inhibited?



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### Recommendations from Dx

- Be aware of what information has already been given to the parent
- How receptive were parents
- Treating SLP can then follow-up with parent on recommendations



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### Individual Therapy

- Value
- Attention
- Focus
- Scenarios



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### Group Therapy

- Realistic
- Appropriate grouping
- Dynamics
- Behaviors
- Activities



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Carryover/Maintenance



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- Transfer
- Maintenance



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### Strategies for Transfer and Maintenance

- Patient/Client/Student becomes the clinician from the beginning
- Decrease the frequency of scheduled treatment
- Maintain regular maintenance checks
- Institute regular, benchmarking
- Deliberately revisit the past
- Reexamine personal construct
- Integrate treatment changes within the communication system



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### Data Keeping



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### Treatment Note Example (Preschool Child)

- **Scale:** (Disfluent) 1- 10 (Fluent) or % of fluency
- Probe:** Conversation, Narratives, ...
- Therapy Results:** Conversation, Narratives, ...
- \_NIA, Model, No Model Single Words, ...
- \_NIA, Model, No Model Carrier Phrases, ...
- Self-Correction:** Yes, No **Self-Monitoring:** Yes, No
- Tasks/Techniques:** ...
- Activities:** ...
- Carryover Activities/Assignments:** ...
- Value Added Impact:** ...
- Plans for Next Session:** ...
- Additional Comments:** ...



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### Treatment Note Example (Older Child)

- **Scale:** (Disfluent) 1- 10 (Fluent) or % of fluency
- Probe:** Conversation, Narratives, Reading, ...
- Therapy Results:** Conversation, Narratives, Reading, ...
- \_NIA, Model, No Model Single Words, ...
- \_NIA, Model, No Model Carrier Phrases, ...
- Self-Correction:** Yes, No **Self-Monitoring:** Yes, No
- Tasks/Techniques:** ...
- Activities:** ...
- Carryover Activities/Assignments:** ...
- Value Added Impact:** ...
- Plans for Next Session:** ...
- Additional Comments:** ...



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### Counseling



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## Counseling

- Counseling is professional guidance of an individual by utilizing psychological methods
- Counseling is an art
- Counseling is a science



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## Counseling process

- Deal with behaviors
- Address emotions connected to stuttering
- Facilitate child's self-esteem
- Assure child that it is okay to stutter
- Involve family, teachers, peers
- Change pre-conceived notions



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## How do we use counseling?

- Gather and convey information
- Prevention
- Help patients/clients adjust emotionally
- Help to correct the CD
- Provide with setting for change
- Help with developing strategies



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## Key words

- Interpersonal skills
- Trust
- Self-understanding
- Listening
- Indirect and direct leading
- Reflecting
- Summarizing



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## Key words continue

- Confronting
- Interpreting
- Informing
- Clarifying



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## Counseling techniques (Luterman 1996)

- Content response
- Counter question
- Affect response
- Reframing
- Sharing self
- Affirmation



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Counter Question

Example: Ask the individual how he or she came to that opinion

- Responding to a question with a question
- Forces the individual to reveal his/her opinion



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Content Response

Example: Telling an individual what services are available and offering a directory of resources

- Used often
- Offer content-based relationships



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Affect Response

Example: "That must frighten you when you think about the available services for your child."

- Responding to the "faint knocking"
- Empathetic listening
- Putting yourself in the shoes of the individual
- Requires follow-up



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Reframing

Example: "What a wonderful opportunity this presents for you to get involved in establishing suitable programs."

- Use to force the person to think about the positive side
- Has to be timed correctly
- Pollyanna
- Powerful too



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Sharing Self

Example: "My child has a hearing loss too and that is how we ended up in this area."

- Sharing our own doubts and uncertainties with our clients/patients/students so that we don't seem so in control
- Sharing feelings



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**Counseling Techniques**  
(Luterman, 1996)  
Affirmation

Example: "Uh huh."

- Responding as a sounding board
- Using nonverbal behavior



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### Other Luteran Techniques

- Silence
- The Embarrassed Silence
  - Changing-Topic Silence
  - The Reflective Silence
  - The Termination Silence



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### Other Techniques

- Listening
- Active listening
  - Paraphrasing
  - Empathy



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### Prevention: Parent Counseling

- Parent education
- Parental attitude changes
- Parental behavior changes
- General parenting
- Group parent counseling



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### Parental Behavior Changes

- Rate of speech
- Language use
- Negative reactions
- Conversational rules
- Daily "special speaking time"
- Modifying home environment
- Monitor speech at home



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School Age



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### School Age Children

- Need for therapy
  - Emotional element
  - Social dynamics
  - New communicative partners



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Challenges of School-Based  
Stuttering Clinical Practice  
(Yaruss, 2002)

- Large caseload sizes.
- Short, infrequent sessions.
- Groups of children with varying disorders.
- Limitations in budgets & materials.
- Minimal interaction with parents.

Piece together a tx plan  
that works for you  
based on your clinical setting  
and your client



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Methods for Intervening

- Slow and easy talking
- Easy onset phonation
- Continuous phonation



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Treatment activities

- Pertinent to day-to-day
- Address social needs
- Age appropriate
- Fun/interactive
- Variety of communicative contexts
- Build on a hierarchy



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Peer involvement

- Therapy partners
- Progress monitors
- Realism
- Carryover



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Observation in the Classroom

- Be non-obtrusive
- Pick a good time to observe
- Observe in a variety of settings
- Coordinate with teacher
- Adjust treatment goals to reflect observations



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Adolescents



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### Treating Adolescents

- Building rapport
- Relationships



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### Pre-intervention factors

- Motivation
- Conflicts
- Parental involvement



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### Motivation

- Motivation to attend
- Motivation during
- Motivation outside therapy



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### Conflicts

- Extracurricular
- Family
- Personal/life



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### Parental Involvement

- Too much involvement
- Too little involvement
- The right formula



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### Treatment methods

- ERAS-M
- Continuous phonation
- Stuttering modification



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### Activities

- Role play
- Classroom activities
- Incorporate lessons
- Outside activities



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### Activities

- Reading
- Story telling
- Games
- Journaling
- Role play



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### Therapy goals

- Self-correcting
- Self-monitoring



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Dismissal from Treatment



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### Dismissal from Therapy

- Are the parents ready?
- Is the child ready?
- Are the speech disfluencies more "normal"?
- Progress monitoring schedule
- Follow-up schedule



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### Last Tasks in the Learning Sequence

- The clinician teaches parents how to ask children to self-correct the child stutters during these structured activities.
- Clinician and parent must work closely together to ensure the child is enjoying themselves and has no negative feelings toward treatment.
- If the clinician has to "feel around" to find the correct way to present verbal-contingent stimulation to the child, the parent feels more relaxed about attempting the procedure.



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## Object of Structure Conversations

- Maintain response rate at an optimal level for the child to learn.
- A rule of thumb -> child's stuttering rate should stay low when parents are giving response-contingent verbal stimulation in structured conversations.
- An important task to teach parents is to set the task at the correct level of difficulty for the child so that optimal learning occurs.



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Questions and Answers!!!



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