

2019ZentzEmily-abstract

## Abstract

Speech therapy has been an integral part of improving communication between people for a number of years. More people are seeking and participating in speech therapy as time goes on and the benefits are becoming more apparent to the public. Children, adolescents, adults, and elderly individuals can all experience personal improvement in communication. However, the outcome of their time in speech therapy is greatly affected by the skills of the clinician that facilitates their therapy. Years of experience influence a clinician's overall ability to conduct therapy, but it is important for clinicians to also consult other clinicians and current research to further develop skills that improve their ability to plan and manage an effective speech therapy session. I analyzed common skills that clinicians should possess and utilize to facilitate high quality speech and language therapy sessions. These skills include: communicating expectations and goals, time management, antecedents/direct teaching, positive reinforcers/corrective feedback, data collection/probing, behavioral management, and troubleshooting. I then measured how student clinicians implement these skills into their own therapy. The results of the study indicated that many student clinicians use similar skills within their therapy sessions and are typically satisfied with their performance as a speech clinician. The process of conducting this research study has given me insight into the behaviors and attitude I need to be a successful and effective speech clinician as a student and in my future career.

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