




The Role of Speech Therapy in Enhancing Communication Skills of Children with Exceptional Needs: A Critical Analysis

Azizreza. Ghasemzadeh^{1,2*}, Maryam. Saadat³, Razie. Kia Kojori⁴




¹ Speech-Language Pathologist, Armada Medical Centre, Dubai, UAE

² Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

³ Psychoanalyst, LifeWorks Holistic Counselling Centre, Dubai, UAE

⁴ M.A, Clinical Psychology, Tonkabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonkabon, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: aghasemzadeh@irimed.org

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Christian Wiesner  Professor at University College of Teacher Education in Lower Austria christian.wiesner@ph-noe.ac.at	Reviewer 1: Farhad Namjoo  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: farhadnamjoo@kmanresce.ca Reviewer 2: Manijeh Daneshpour  Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America. mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"The role of speech therapy in enhancing the communication skills of children with exceptional needs is a critical aspect of their overall development." - Consider providing statistical data or specific examples to quantify the impact of speech therapy on children's development to strengthen this statement.

"Moreover the use of telepractice in speech therapy has been highlighted as a potential solution..." - This sentence could be expanded by discussing specific studies or data that support the efficacy of telepractice in speech therapy.

"The effectiveness and efficiency of different arrangements for organizing and providing services..." - Please clarify what is meant by "different arrangements" and provide examples or categories to help the reader understand the context better.

"Through the use of evidence-based practices and innovative methodologies speech therapy facilitates..." - Consider including a brief explanation or examples of what constitutes "innovative methodologies" in this context.

"It plays a crucial role in improving social language and communication..." - Provide specific examples or case studies that demonstrate the improvements in social language and communication due to speech therapy.

"Despite its numerous benefits speech therapy also presents challenges and limitations in the development of communication skills..." - Specify some of the challenges and limitations mentioned in the literature, such as access to services, cost, and variability in therapist training.

"Recent studies have focused on the implementation of speech therapy services and speech disorders assessment in regional psycho-pedagogical support centers..." - It would be useful to include the geographical scope and sample size of these studies to give context to the findings.

"Furthermore the development of applications for early intervention speech therapy in children with intellectual disability has been a subject of recent research..." - Provide specific examples of these applications and any available data on their efficacy.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Studies have shown that speech therapy interventions result in improvements in intelligibility independent communication..." - It would be beneficial to cite specific studies or provide a reference list to support this claim.

"Speech therapy interventions are crucial in supporting the development of language skills in children with intellectual disabilities..." - Elaborate on the specific interventions used for children with intellectual disabilities and how they differ from those used with other conditions.

"In addition to traditional speech therapy approaches the use of alternative methods such as group therapy..." - It would be helpful to define what is meant by "alternative methods" and provide examples of how they are implemented.

"Moreover the use of assistive communication devices and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) has been highlighted as a valuable tool..." - Discuss the types of AAC devices commonly used and their impact on therapy outcomes.

"Speech therapy offers numerous benefits in aiding the development of communication skills in children with exceptional needs." - This section would benefit from a more detailed breakdown of the benefits, possibly in a bulleted or numbered list format.

"In comparison to other interventions such as cochlear implantation and multidisciplinary therapy..." - This section would be strengthened by including a comparative table that outlines the pros and cons of each intervention.

"The BioVisualSpeech Corpus of Words with Sibilants has been developed providing valuable data..." - Elaborate on how this corpus is used in practice and its impact on speech therapy outcomes.

"It is recommended that policy frameworks prioritize the integration of evidence-based speech therapy interventions into early intervention practices..." - Include examples of successful policy implementations from different regions or countries to illustrate the recommendation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.