

Case Study: Fluency Shaping Study in a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Şükriye Kayhan Aktürk^a, Nevin Yılmaz^a & Mehmet Ali Akay^a

Abstract

Purpose: Stuttering and autism can co-occur. In this case the communication of the child becomes more disrupted. The aim of the recent study is to investigate effectiveness of the fluency shaping therapy programme to reduce stuttering frequency in a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Method: This research is a case study. The participant is a 10 years old male who has been diagnosed as ASD. Although he has difficulties in pragmatic skills, other language modalities such as semantic, morphology, phonology and syntax are better. He can maintain long conversations especially when the topic is in his interest areas. On the other hand, sometimes he may speak out of context. In this program fluency shaping methods was implemented one session per week totally in 12 clinical sessions. The participant's percentage of stuttered syllables was calculated weekly.

Results: According to results, there is a reduction in the percentage of stuttered syllables from 28% to 8%-6%. However, this decrease in percentages showed a fluctuated graphic in the therapy sessions. Moreover, it is reported that perceived anxiety level of his parents decreased at the end of the therapy program.

Conclusion: Recent study revealed that fluency shaping therapy is beneficial in ASD. This therapy method holds promise for reducing percentage of stuttered syllables and perceived anxiety level of the parents.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder, fluency shaping, stuttering

^a Department of Speech and Language Therapy, Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey

Note: Stuttering and ASD are common disorders that speech language therapists (SLP) may confront in their clinical settings frequently. When these two disorders comorbid it becomes rarer and a more complicated condition. If recent international congress gives an opportunity to these kinds of researches many SLP from different parts of world can share their experiences and may help each other in clinical settings.