

NSW EBP PAEDIATRIC SPEECH GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Updated 2022

Group Co-Leaders: Rebecca Gurka and Vani Gupta

Group Academic Link: Dr Elise Baker

INTRODUCTION

The NSW EBP Paediatric Speech Group was formed in 2003. Most members are practising clinicians in NSW working with children who have a speech sound disorder (SSD). Group members have a range of experience – some may be recent graduates, others have many years of experience.

The group aims to review the evidence available in the literature (e.g. peer reviewed papers, reviewed papers, expert opinion pieces etc) relating to the management of children with speech sound disorders (e.g., articulation impairments, phonological impairment, childhood apraxia of speech). The group has a strong focus on integrating clinical research with clinical expertise and client values. This means a portion of group meetings is devoted to case discussion, sharing of clinical expertise, in conjunction with the review, development and/or sharing of resources. The integration of research evidence with expertise and clinical cases within our meetings facilitates the translation of research to practice. Wider issues relevant to administration and service delivery (as opposed to individual cases) are considered, in light of research evidence. Clinicians not attending meetings, who may access the appraised articles and topics on line, are encouraged to read the complete article for a comprehensive understanding of the author's/authors' research.

OPERATION

The meetings operate to an agenda. Agenda items can be forwarded to one of the co-leaders one week prior to meetings, however additional agenda items can be added at the time of the meeting. The chairperson is usually one of the co-leaders of the group.

Topics to appraise are selected by the group based on clinical need and applicability. Typically, at least one paper is critically appraised at each meeting using either a CAP or CAP-T template document. The papers are allocated to the group based on number of members and number of available papers, by the co-leaders. Wherever possible, multiple sites are allocated a paper to review so we can ensure objectivity in the CAP process. It is expected that all members will contribute to a CAP (either individually or as part of a team) for the paper they have been allocated. If this is not possible, please contact the group co-leaders.

The meetings typically have several components including: discussion of the critically appraised papers (CAPs); specific discussion about the clinical applicability of the study; case study discussions; and resource development/sharing. Sometimes, when the topic selected is particularly complex, a brief presentation/workshop relating to the topic may also be part of the meeting.

Minutes are taken at each meeting, usually by one of the co-leaders.

Since 2019 we have been meeting via Zoom rather than in-person face-to-face meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Graduated speech pathologists who have a focus on speech sound disorders in their current workplace are able to join the EBP paediatric speech group. New members must complete the online training module located at this website <https://nswspeechpathologyebp.com>, and supply the group leader with a completed checklist located on the same website.

Student speech pathologists can only attend the meetings with their clinical educator.

Members who are not working currently (maternity/study leave etc) should notify one of the co-leaders of this, and may still join/remain in the group.

Members who do not complete any CAPs within a one year time frame will not remain on the EBP Paediatric Speech group list. Members who do not attend any meetings, but still complete CAPs, will remain on the group list.

MEETINGS

There are four meetings per year. Meeting dates and times are discussed with our Academic Link, Dr Elise Baker, to ensure she is able to attend and provide her invaluable insights.

CRITICALLY APPRAISED TOPICS

Once members have critically appraised the papers identified per topic, the co-leaders collate these into a Critically Appraised Topic. The result is a simple summary of the best evidence the group found for the nominated topic.

EBP SHOWCASE

We report back to the NSW Speech Pathology EBP Network on the group's activities, the results from the critically appraised topics, the clinical application and other issues we face in participating in EBP, at the EBP Showcase (held every 18 months). The presentations will be given by group members on a rotating roster from various teams.

OTHER OUTPUTS

The Paediatric Speech group has always had enthusiastic members committed to evidence-based practice and applying the principles we learn about each meeting. The group's findings may be published, presented or otherwise summarised and used to create resources for Speech Pathology clinicians.