

SpeakEasy Randomized Control Trial

The Sundrops Centre for Child Development, a nonprofit based in British Columbia, Canada, conducted an independent RCT to evaluate the efficacy of the SpeakEasy app for families on their speech therapy waitlist. 48 families completed the study over a 3 month timeframe.

Study Results

Research Question 1: Usefulness

Is SpeakEasy a useful tool for families on a waitlist for speech therapy?



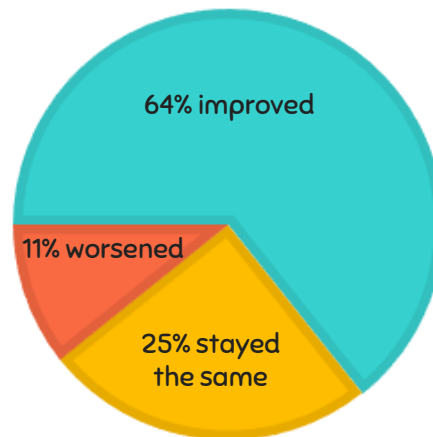
SpeakEasy increased the quantity and quality of parent-child communication.

Parents who used SpeakEasy were

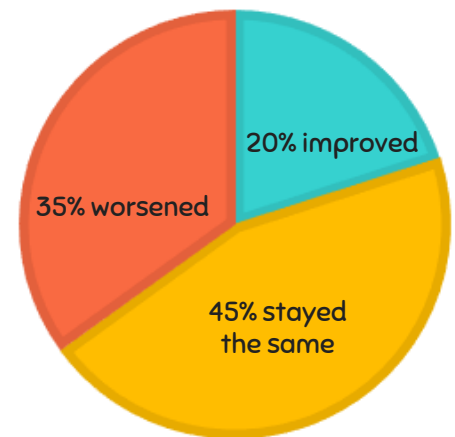
3 times

more likely to report more communication with their child after 3 months (64% vs 20%)

With SpeakEasy



Without SpeakEasy



These findings are highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). At the beginning and end of the study, parents were asked: "I am satisfied with the amount of communication with my child", and responded on a 5 point range from Completely Disagree to Completely Agree. 64% of parents with SpeakEasy agreed more with this statement after 3 months compared to 20% of parents without SpeakEasy.

Additional data: 57% of parents using SpeakEasy reported increased satisfaction with the quality of communication with their child, versus 40% in the control group

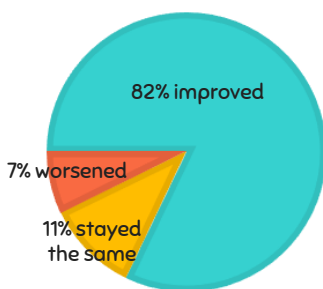
Research Question 2: Feeling Supported

Do parents feel more supported by their speech therapy services when provided with an app resource for additional learning?

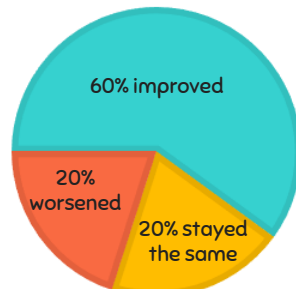


Parents felt more empowered to teach their children language at home.

With SpeakEasy



Without SpeakEasy



Additional data:

Question

I know how to help my child improve their communication

% Improved With SpeakEasy

68%

% Improved Without SpeakEasy

50%

I have all the tools I need to begin helping my child

79%

70%

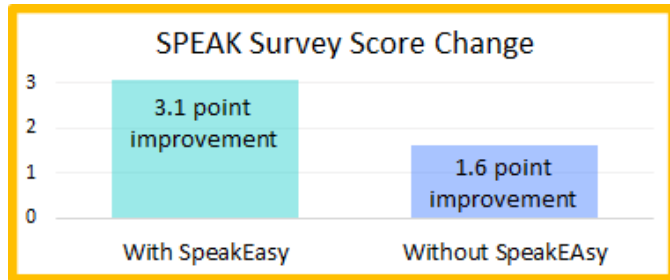
"I feel empowered to teach my child language using what I have at home." Statistically significant: $p = 0.05$

Research Question Details

Research Question 3: Parent Knowledge

Do parents become more knowledgeable about early language development after using a language development app?

➔ Parent knowledge increased slightly as a result of using SpeakEasy.



Not statistically significant: $p = 0.14$
Some individual SPEAK questions show significant differences but the tool was built to be used in aggregate

Additional data:

Question (summarized)

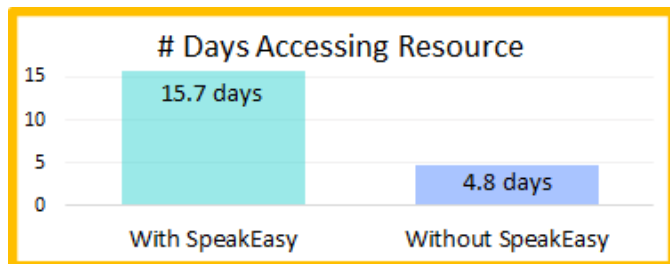
Question (summarized)	% Improved With SpeakEasy	% Improved Without SpeakEasy
I understand why speech & language development is important	21%	15%
Physically changing position helps	54%	35%
Speaking slowly is important	46%	30%
Telling a child to "say ___" helps	18%	25%
Pausing frequently helps	43%	40%
Saying more to my child helps	50%	25%

Overall, parents with SpeakEasy were more likely to improve than parents without it on 10 of 11 SpeakEasy language development questions

Research Question 4: Engagement

Does providing an app enable more regular practice than other speech and language resources?

➔ Parents engaged with material much more often when given SpeakEasy.



Statistically significant: $p < 0.001$
"Without SpeakEasy" calculated from self reported responses;
"With SpeakEasy" based on actual app usage

Additional data:

64% of parents who received the SpeakEasy app used the resource 10 or more days, compared with 20% who received website resources

All parents in the treatment group used the app on at least 4 different days

Parents used the app more often during the first half of the 3 month period than they did in the second half

Evidence Base for Using Technology in Early Intervention

Select references that informed this study of the SpeakEasy app

Adamson et al., 2020. The developmental landscape of early parent-focused language intervention.

Beecher & Buzhardt, 2016. Mobile technology to increase parent engagement.

McGill et al., 2021. Randomised controlled trial evaluating active versus passive waiting for speech-language pathology.

Ramírez et al., 2020. Parent coaching increases conversational turns and advances infant language development.

Rowe, et al., 2016. The role of parent child education and parenting knowledge in children's language and literacy skills among White, Black, and Latino Families.

Suskind et al., 2018. Development of the survey of parent/provider expectations and knowledge (SPEAK).