Metalinguistic Language Development and Literacy Success in First Grade Children with Language Impairment

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Cassidy, Kelcie N.; Anger, Maya; Williams, Morgan; and Dietsch, Cheska, "Metalinguistic Language Development and Literacy Success in First Grade Children with Language Impairment" (2017). University of Montana Conference on Undergraduate Research (UMCUR). 16.
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Purpose

To examine the influence of metalinguistic language, specifically phonological, awareness, on the literacy success in children with and without Language Impairment (LI).

Rationale

- Young school-age children with language impairment (LI) are at risk for literacy deficits.
- The metalinguistic skills required for literacy are also required to understand and produce spoken language (Apel, Wolter, Masterson, 2006; NRP, 2000).
- PA includes the ability to detect rhymes, break words into smaller parts, put sounds into words, and understand that words are made up of sound units represented by written symbols or letters (Paul & Norbury, 2012).
- Phonological awareness (PA) can be defined as the student’s awareness of the sound structure of spoken language (NRP, 2000).
- PA is highly predictive of literacy success however, it is not the only skill that affects literacy development.

Methodology

Participants:

- 65 1st graders with LI (n = 33) and without LI (n = 32), typical cognition & hearing

Administer Test Battery:

- Phonological Awareness (PA) (CTOPP-2; Wagner et al., 2013)
- Word-Level Reading (WTA-3. Word ID/Attack; Woodcock, 2013)
- Spelling Task: (Wolter & Apel, 2010)

Results

- Children with LI performed significantly (p < .05) poorer on measures of PA than peers
- And their literacy was significantly and moderately related to PA for children with LI

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Discussion

- Metalinguistic skills such as PA are significantly related to literacy success for all children.
- PA helps with early identification and facilitation of literacy success with children with LI and contribute to development of:
  - Screening Tasks
  - Assessment Measures
  - Treatment Techniques

References


Portions of this research were supported by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of the National Institute of Health.