

Current directions in practice: Where are we getting our information from?

Translating research into practise is a requirement of contemporary service provision. Efficient and effective practice results from an integrated understanding of the contextualised application of evidence based interventions and innovative models of care.

The purpose of this paper is to identify some cornerstone bodies of work and key organisations that are a useful starting point for clinicians to begin their search when seeking to understand and apply contemporary practice.

Longitudinal Studies:

Australian:

Name	LOOKing at Language Study	Growing Up in Australia: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)	Early Language in Victoria Study (ELVS)
Focus	Language Specific	Holistic child development. Elements with a language focus	Communication development broadly
Host Org.	Telethon Institute (WA)	Telethon Institute (WA)	Murdoch Institute (Vic)
Time Period	2002 – ongoing Third phase of funding	2004 – ongoing	2003 – ongoing Third phase of funding
Cohort	1000 families including 800 sets of twins and 200 single birth children	10 000 children recruited from across Australia, aged 0-1yrs and 4-5yrs at start	1900 families recruited when their child was aged 8-10mths
Basic Info	Involves formal language assessment and understanding of environmental and genetic data.	Some elements involve formal assessment of language. Parallel study: Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC)	Broad focus including fluency, genetics, multilingual development, ASD and speech sound disorders.
Link	http://telethonkids.org.au/our-research/projects-index//looking-at-language/	http://www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au/	http://www.mcri.edu.au/research/research-projects/elvs/

Significant reviews of existing systems and practices specific to speech pathology:

<p>Bercow Report: a review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs</p>	<p>UK 2008 to 2010</p>	<p>Government initiated review of the current context and future needs of children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. This report to parliament recognised the importance of communicative competence and the need to provide services differently.</p> <p>Summary Link: https://www.google.com.au/search?q=Bercow+report&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-au:official&client=firefox-a&gfe_rd=cr&ej=VAHGU56olsjC8gf9-4CYBQ</p>
<p>Senate Inquiry: Prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and Speech Pathology Services in Australia</p>	<p>Aus 2013 to 2014</p>	<p>A government initiated investigation into the prevalence of different types of communication disorders and the context of Speech Pathology service provision in Australia. 299 submissions were received from government departments, non-government service providers and consumers. These are available online. The inquiry report, complete with recommendations, was released on the 2nd September 2014.</p> <p>http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Speech_Pathology</p>
<p>Better Communication Research Project</p>	<p>UK 2009 to 2012</p>	<p>3 year collaboration between the University of London, Newcastle University and the University of West England commissioned in response to the Bercow Report. 19 evidence based reports on elements of speech pathology service provision.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/better-communication-research-programme</p>
<p>Cochrane: Speech and language therapy interventions for children with primary speech and language delay or disorder</p>	<p>UK 2003 & 2010</p>	<p>A meta-analysis of published randomised controlled trials of speech and language interventions. This paper was designed to examine the effectiveness of speech and language interventions for children with primary speech and language delay/disorder.</p> <p>http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004110/abstract</p>

The content of this paper is a synthesis of the referenced literature.
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