

SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROGRESS SUMMARY – November 2005

NAME: Tamsin Colley
DOB: 10/09/02
AGE: 3.2 years

DATE REPORT: 25/11/2005

Tamsin has been seen for regular speech pathology for her severe, motor speech disorder (approximately weekly basis). This report details the changes in Tamsin's communication over the last 10 weeks from 9/9/05 to 25/11/05. Tamsin will be seen by Dr Teo for neurosurgical review on 29/11/05. Tamsin's speech remains very impaired, however she has demonstrated improvement on the following measures:

Rate of Speech: Tamsin's speech rate has improved in the last 10 weeks. Her speech rate during a story telling activity on 9/9/05 was **76.7 syllables per minute**. Her speech rate during the same activity on 25/11/05 was **92.3 syllables per minute**, representing an increase in rate by 15.6 spm, which is significant. Normal speech rate is about 180 syllables per minute.

Intelligibility: Tamsin's clarity remains poor, but has improved. Taped recordings of the story telling activity were played to a naïve listener, and the number of intelligible words was rated. On the 9/9/05 sample, the naïve listener understood **5%** of words spoken. On the 25/11/05 sample, the naïve listener understood **25%** of words spoken.

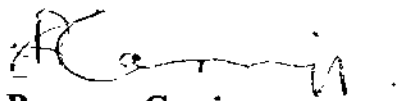
Intonation Pattern: Tamsin's stress pattern is very disordered. She places equal stress on most syllables, and uses the same volume level. This gives her speech an exaggerated, robotic tone. Therapy has focused on production of a 'Weak-Strong' stress pattern in 2 syllable words, and 2x1-syllable words, eg '**again**', '**begin**', '**because**', '**a bear**'. Tamsin was unable to differentiate between weak and strong syllables at a 1 word level, or in conversation on 9/9/05 – all syllables were marked as strong ones. Progress has been slow, but Tamsin can now produce a range of words with a 'Weak-Strong' pattern after a model. This has not carried through to conversation yet.

Speech Sounds: Tamsin is now consistently using the velar sound /g/ at the beginning and in the middle of words during spontaneous speech. She was not doing this when assessed on 9/9/05. Tamsin's production of words beginning with /s/-clusters has got quicker, ie words beginning with /sp/, /sm/, /st/, etc. Previously Tamsin could only achieve success if she prolonged the /s/, eg /ssssspot/. She now emphasizes the /s/ less. On a rating scale of 1-5, where 1 represents very exaggerated and separate production of sounds in the cluster, and 5 represents normal production, Tamsin has improved from a 1 to a 3 with this particular goal.

There has been no change in the accuracy of Tamsin's production of fricative or affricate sounds. This includes the sounds /v/, /z/, /sh/, /zh/, /ch/, /j/. Tamsin palatalizes all these sounds so they sound like a /y/ approximation, with a bit of air flowing through eg 'seeing' is "zyeeyzing". There are other sounds she cannot produce that also sound like a /y/, for example the /l/ sound. This means that there are a whole group of sounds that are very difficult to distinguish.

There have been minor improvements in Tamsin's ability to produce voiceless (quiet) sounds at the beginnings and in the middle of words. These include the sounds /p/, /t/, and /k/. Tamsin can say them on the ends of words, but in other positions they are voiced – this means the noisy version is produced, ie /b/, /d/, and /g/ respectively. So 'pig' sounds like "big", 'tap' sounds like "dap". On 9/9/05, Tamsin could not produce /p/, /k/ or /t/ at the beginning of the word. She can now produce a correct /p/ on 20% of occasions with modeling in a simple structure (ie consonant-vowel structure).

Language: Tamsin's language has expanded, particularly in the last month. She has always had excellent comprehension and vocabulary, however her sentence length was reduced because of the speech motor difficulties. Tamsin is now frequently producing utterances of 8 plus words eg 'there's Shannon and Tamsin wearing the same pants as wearing now', 'I'm drinking orange juice in Grandma's cup', 'there's Maisie in her tractor with – oops I just did a hiccup!' This improvement in sentence length and complexity reflects the improvements in Tamsin's speech motor coordination, rather than only a rapid improvement in her vocabulary and ideas.



Bronwyn Carrigg
Senior Speech Pathologist
Sydney Children's Hospital