



EARLY INTERVENTION IN ATAXIC DYSARTHRIA. LONGITUDINAL CASE STUDY



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Abstract

Introduction: This paper focuses on the importance of early intervention on language development in children with ataxic dysarthria, taking into account that they face various breathing, articulation, phonetic, resonance and suprasegmentally difficulties. Coordination disorders, difficulties in walking, abundant salivation, low muscle tone and jerky speech are also known disorders met in ataxic dysarthria.

All these disorders have a negative impact on the quality of life of the individuals diagnosed with this condition, so early intervention is necessary.

Material and methods: This paper aims to bring forward an approach based on developing the suprasegmentally component of communication, the abilities of immediate imitation, focused attention, establishing visual contact, developing the phono articulatory apparatus mobility using classical exercises as well as orofacial stimulation (Morales Technique and using special instruments – Sensory therapy instruments, Z-vibe – an instrument with vibrations), developing breathing, articulation, phonetic and resonance skills, developing active vocabulary, taking into account the final aim, developing a functional and efficient communication.

Results: This approach has very interesting results, greatly reducing the discrepancy between chronological age and the level of language development.

Conclusions: In conclusion, early intervention has a very important influence on the developmental characteristics of children with ataxic dysarthria due to the fact that it has an impact on the quality of life of a child and his/her family.

Keywords: Dysarthria, Ataxic Dysarthria, Early Intervention,