

Stuttering in young children: to treat or not to treat? – some guiding considerations...

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In recent years knowledge about the early development of stuttering has moved rapidly. A lot of research has been done about 'spontaneous recovery' versus 'chronicity' of stuttering. This has resulted in a clearer picture of factors that can help predict the probability of spontaneous recovery, if not the further development of the disorder. This is good news for the SLT. He can attempt to translate this knowledge into criteria he can use as guidelines for making the decision whether to start up stuttering treatment or not.

In this seminar we will give an overview of these recent findings about the early development and recovery versus chronicity. The objectives are to provide the student or future clinician with information he/she can use to substantiate his/her decision to treat or not to treat a young child with a fluency disorder, and to determine the features and organisation of this treatment (e.g., follow-up, indirect treatment with the parents, intensive treatment...).