

**Title**

Advantages and disadvantages of speech and language therapy software according to practitioners and parents

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Background

For many SLTs computer technology has become an important tool for therapeutic intervention programs. However, there are opinions that computer games can decrease child's communication competence.

Aims

The aim of the study was to investigate the attitude of practitioners and parents in Poland towards the use of speech and language therapy software as an intervention strategy.

Methods & Procedures

A questionnaire was sent to 645 practitioners and to 1105 parents of children with speech and language disorders.

Results

Thirty eight parents and sixty SLTs responded. Both SLTs (87%) and parents (81%) reported that the use of computer programs increases children's commitment to the therapy. According to 74% of SLTs and 75% of parents children treat it rather as fun than work.

Notwithstanding, there are some differences between SLTs and parents. According to 89% of parents and 62% of practitioners speech and language therapy software should be used as a part of language therapy, but only 28% of SLTs compared to 40% of parents treat the software as part of real therapy. The practitioners use computer programs mainly as a reward or a break from work.

Conclusions & Implications

It seems reasonable to use speech and language therapy software - children like it. However survey results have revealed that majority of SLTs and parents don't treat this intervention strategy as a serious type of therapy. Computer programs are still perceived as pure entertainment rather than a part of therapy.