PROFESSIONALS' RATES OF AUDITORY VERBAL STRATEGY UTILIZATION

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DISCLOSURES

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Mikayla was identified with profound bilateral SNHL at 3y0m and received bilateral CIs at 3y6m. Her local school district’s TOD has no prior CI experience, but the school district will not approve an out-of-district placement at an OPTION school one town over.

Addison’s family travels 3 hours one way to the CI center where he received his bilateral CIs at 12m. They cannot attend weekly for AV sessions. The local EI SLP has no prior experience, but the EI system argues that she is a highly qualified provider and will not approve AVT via teletherapy for the family.
THE PROBLEM

- Highly variable outcomes
- Highly variable personnel prep
  - Lenihan, 2010; ASHA, 2016
- High demand for listening and spoken language (re)habilitation
  - Alberg, Wilson, & Roush, 2006; Personal communication, D. Doak, 2017
- Limited access to HQPs
  - AVI, 2002; AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language, 2018
- Lack of knowledge of evidence-informed strategies
  - Fickenscher & Gaffney, 2016
METHODS

● Electronic survey distributed via social media and professional network listservs from February - June 2017
  ○ $n = 136$

● Respondents were given a definition of each strategy and asked to report on their knowledge of/confidence with the strategy and how regularly they used the strategy

● Qualitative data collected as well
WHISPER: A Whisper is accomplished when the speaker turns off the voice and reduces the suprasegmental of intensity. Whispering is a form of acoustic highlighting. Do you use this strategy regularly (defined as, at least once during a typical day of therapy/class sessions)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] Yes, but I call it something else (please describe below)
- [ ] No, I am unfamiliar with this strategy
- [ ] No, I know about this strategy but do not find it effective (please describe below)
- [ ] No, but I call it something else (please describe below)
- [ ] No, I know about this strategy but am not confident using it
RESULTS

● Most respondents reported using wait time, turn-taking, and expansion
● Usage of other strategies was more variable
  ○ LSLS most likely to report using all strategies, followed by those in certification process
  ○ Non-LSLS least likely to report using all strategies
● Logistic regression used to predict usage of each strategy by LSLS status, controlling for years of experience
"What did you hear?" - significant difference between LSLS and non-LSLS ($p = .0104$)
Auditory first - significant difference between non-LSLS and those in the process ($p = .015$)
Whispering - significant differences between LSLS and non-LSLS (p = .00987), LSLS and in-process (p = .01518)
**Motherese** - significant difference between LSLS and non-LSLS ($p = .000847$)
LIMITATIONS

- Sampling
- Exceptions
CONCLUSIONS

- Significant differences in strategy utilization between LSLS-certified and non-LSLS certified professionals
  - Regardless of years of experience
  - In-process LSLS show improved rates of strategy utilization

- Potentially useful to support families in advocating for services provided by HQPs

- Potentially useful to justify additional reimbursement for services provided by HQPs