

Research into speech change with methylphenidate (Ritalin) in children with apraxia of speech

About Us

The Centre of Research Excellence in Speech and Language examines speech and language in individuals with rare genetic conditions. We are trying to better understand treatments for speech disorders. Our longer-term aim is to help develop better targeted therapies.



Register your interest



Would you be willing to take part in our project?

We are running a project looking at whether speech improves in children with apraxia of speech who take methylphenidate (Ritalin). By improving our understanding of how well different therapies work for apraxia of speech, we hope to develop more targeted therapies.

Who can participate?

- children with childhood apraxia of speech
- aged 6 to 12 years
- who can complete spoken tasks
- who do not have epilepsy, congenital heart disease, severe Tourette Syndrome, severe intellectual disability
- who live within 250km of Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- have some inattentive and/or hyperactive symptoms

What is involved?

Taking part in a study over 8 weeks + 2 days. Your child would complete a screening assessment at the Royal Children's Hospital. If eligible, children will take medication for 4 weeks and a placebo for 4 weeks. The order of taking these pills is randomly chosen. Children will also complete 4 speech testing sessions via Zoom.