

**Abstract**

Although speech-language pathologists increasingly make use of tablets in clinical practice, little research to date has evaluated the effectiveness or efficiency of tablet use for targeting speech sound goals. The **two**-fold purpose of this study was to compare (a) the effectiveness and (b) the efficiency of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards. Four kindergarten students with at least two similar speech sound errors participated in this adapted alternating treatments single subject design study that explored the functional relation between speech sound intervention that differed by modality of delivery (tablet versus flashcards) and increased speech sound skill in elementary school children with speech sound errors. Flashcards and tablets were both effective **single-word** speech sound intervention modalities; however, for three of four participants, flashcards were more efficient than tablets.

**Keywords:**

Speech Sound Disorder

Articulation

Intervention

Tablet

iPad

**The Comparative Efficiency of Speech Sound Interventions that Differ by Modality:  
Flashcards versus Tablet**

Children whose speech sound disorder (SSD) has not resolved by age eight or nine are at greater risk than children who have no history of speech sound disorder or resolved speech sound disorder for low outcomes across a variety of domains (Bishop & Adams, 1990), and these deficits persist over time (Lewis et al., 2015). School-based speech-language pathologists report that 90% of their caseload have at least one speech sound goal (ASHA, 2018); however, a recent comprehensive review concluded that more research is needed to provide evidence of the benefits of early speech sound intervention approaches (Baker & McLeod, 2011). Therefore, research evaluating materials and methods of early speech sound intervention is needed. The present study evaluated the effect of modality of stimulus presentation (flashcards, tablets) on the effectiveness and efficiency of speech sound intervention for kindergarten students. Effectiveness addresses the question of if an intervention approach improves skills, and efficiency addresses the question of how one achieves the result of improved skills with the least amount of wasted time and effort.

**The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Traditional Speech Sound Intervention**

Approaches to the treatment of speech sound disorder are widely variable. A recent comprehensive review reported that 46 distinct approaches were identified in the literature between 1979 and 2009, and only half of these intervention approaches have been studied more than once (Baker & McLeod, 2011). One of the intervention approaches with multiple studies supporting its use was the traditional speech sound intervention approach, **in which sounds are targeted individually**. For the purposes of this paper, we focus on contrasting the effectiveness and efficiency of a traditional speech sound intervention that has existing empirical evidence of

effectiveness and clinical preference (Shriberg & Kwiatkowski, 1982) delivered in high-tech (tablet) versus low-tech (flashcard) modalities.

Shriberg and Kwiatkowski (1982) compared the effectiveness and efficiency of four **methods of single-word** speech sound intervention for preschool and elementary school-aged students. Two **methods** were primarily drill-based, and two were primarily play-based. The first **method**, drill, involved providing instructions, modeling the target stimulus, eliciting a child production, and rewarding the child for a correct production or providing a subsequent series of teaching events for an incorrect production. The second **method**, drill play, was similar to the drill approach, with the addition of a motivational event before presenting the target stimulus. In the third **method**, structured play, the clinician prompted the child to produce target sounds only if the child was receptive to attempting the task. Additionally, children were rewarded whether their production was correct or incorrect. Finally, in the play **method**, clinicians emphasized a play activity with no mention of the target sound or specific prompting for productions. Clinicians structured the play activity to naturally elicit child productions but never alerted the child's focus to their speech sound.

Results indicated that drill-based **methods of** speech sound intervention are more effective and more efficient than play-based **methods**. These results align with a meta-analysis of interventions for children with learning disabilities, which indicated that interventions containing a drill component were more effective than those that did not (Swanson & Sachse-Lee, 2000). Additionally, children with mild speech sound needs completed a small-group speech improvement class in the school system in approximately 17-20 hours (Taps, 2008). In contrast, the average time to criterion in the drill condition in Shriberg and Kwiatkowski was less than 2.5 hours of individual sessions (Shriberg & Kwiatkowski, 1982). Therefore, the drill-based

**method** utilized by Shriberg and Kwiatkowski is both effective and efficient for improving speech sound production in preschool and elementary school-aged children when delivered in a traditional modality, that is, pictures presented on flashcards.

### **The Increase in Tablet Use to Deliver Speech Sound Intervention**

The use of tablets and other touchscreen devices in speech-language therapy has increased in recent years. In a survey of over 300 school-based speech-language pathologists (Fernandes, 2011), almost 75% reported owning a tablet or touchscreen device. Of those respondents, over 80% reported using their device in therapy, overwhelmingly for speech sound therapy and motivation. Approximately 60% of **speech-language pathologists** who reported using this technology in therapy indicated that they purchased the device with their personal funds. This survey data indicates that tablet technology is widely used for speech sound therapy, and the majority of costs are out-of-pocket for **speech-language pathologists**. Therefore, it is vital to determine if utilizing tablets to deliver speech sound therapy is more effective and/or efficient than traditional flashcard speech sound therapy, for which materials are substantially less expensive.

Despite its widespread use, tablet technology in speech sound intervention has been evaluated rarely empirically to date. A recent systematic review of computer-based speech sound intervention indicated that computer-based therapy can be effective for some children with speech sound disorders but is not effective for all children (Furlong, Erickson, & Morris, 2017). Investigations to date have not evaluated the effectiveness of tablet-based speech sound intervention, even though **speech-language pathologists** are enthusiastic about adopting tablet-based technology approaches for the treatment of speech sound disorders (Gacnik, Starcic, Zaletelj, & Zajc, 2017).

The purpose of this preliminary study was to compare (a) the effectiveness of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards, and (b) the efficiency of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards. Our primary interest was in comparing the conditions of tablet and flashcard presentation of treatment stimuli rather than evaluating the particular evidence-based intervention we selected. Our a priori hypotheses were as follows. First, we anticipated that flashcards and tablets would be equally effective. That is, children would improve to mastery on production of target sounds regardless of condition. Second, we anticipated that tablets would be more efficient than flashcards; that is, children would make gains more quickly in the tablet condition.

### **Method**

The research protocol for this study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the [University].

### **Participants**

The participants were 4 kindergarten students (3 boys) at a local elementary school who had at least two speech sound errors, determined by the screening process described below. All participants were monolingual speakers of English, Caucasian, and had normal hearing, determined by parent report. Additionally, participants had nonverbal intelligence and receptive vocabulary within the average range, determined by performance on the Test of Nonverbal Intelligence-4th Edition (TONI-4) (Brown, Sherbenou, & Johnsen, 2010) and the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-4th Edition (PPVT-4) (Dunn & Dunn, 2007), respectively. One student, Walter, was enrolled in speech sound intervention at his school during study participation. See Table 1 for participant demographic information.

-----INSERT TABLE 1 HERE-----

## **Procedures**

The study consisted of three stages: screening, initial assessment, and the single subject design intervention. First, we screened a classroom of children to identify potential participants. Next, we assessed nonverbal intelligence, language, and early literacy to confirm eligibility and describe participants. Finally, eligible students participated in a single subject, adapted alternating treatment design study that compared the use of tablets and flashcards in speech sound intervention. All research sessions took place in the participants' school.

**Screening.** A local kindergarten classroom participated in speech sound screening. With the school's permission, a letter was sent home that provided parents the opportunity to opt out of having their child participate in the screening. Of 18 students, 2 parents opted out. Thus, 16 children participated in the screening. The screening was conducted by the first author, a certified **speech-language pathologist**, and the second author, a **speech-language pathology** student. It took place in the students' empty kindergarten classroom during the teacher's planning period. The students' teacher was present at her desk but did not participate in the screening process. No other students were present. To identify speech sound errors, the Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation-Second Edition (GFTA-2) (Goldman & Fristoe, 2000) was administered to students individually. The goal of the screening was to identify students who had consistent speech sound errors on at least two sounds that differed only by place and/or voicing. Errors could be in initial or final word position, but word position could not differ across targets for each individual participant. The rationale for these selection criteria was to control for differences between the two sounds for each child that were targeted across conditions. Children were not required to qualify for speech sound intervention through their school, but we made an a priori decision that children who exhibited screening results consistent with phonological

processes or childhood apraxia of speech would not be eligible for the intervention. No student exhibited such errors. The screening identified four children eligible for the intervention study, with the following intervention targets: one child with initial /s/ and /z/, one child with initial /θ/ and /ð/, one child with final /θ/ and /ð/, and one child with /pl/ and /gl/. This child's error was /w/ for /l/ in the blends. He did not have errors in production of the stops in the blend. See Table 2. We sent consent forms home with these children, and parents provided consent for each to participate in the intervention portion of the study. Children provided assent at the beginning of each research session.

-----INSERT TABLE 2 HERE-----

**Descriptive assessment.** Before beginning intervention, children identified during the screening process participated in a descriptive assessment session to confirm eligibility. As reported above in Table 1, participants completed measures of nonverbal intelligence and receptive vocabulary. These measures were administered by the first author, a certified **speech-language pathologist**. All scores were double-checked by the second author, who read the test manuals and practiced scoring test forms to achieve >90% accuracy on three consecutive tests before completing the double-scoring. There was 100% agreement between the authors on raw and standard scores for each measure. All participants scored above a standard score of 90 on each measure.

**Single subject intervention.** This study employed a single subject, adapted alternating treatment design (AATD; Sindelar, Rosenberg, & Wilson, 1985) that explored the functional relation between speech sound intervention that differed by modality of delivery (tablet versus flashcards) and increased speech sound skill in elementary school children with speech sound errors. The AATD study design compares the rate of acquisition of the targeted behaviors when

different intervention methods are used for each condition. Thus, the study design requires two equivalent sets of instructional items for each participant that are taught using different methodologies. In this study, we utilized phonemes that differed minimally as the equivalent instructional targets and modality (flashcard versus tablet) as the different instructional methodology. An effect of intervention modality is present if (a) differences in time to mastery across conditions are observed and (b) these differences are replicated across participants.

**Word selection.** Target sounds were randomly assigned to intervention conditions for each participant. Intervention in each condition ended when a participant was 100% accurate on the target sound probe assessment for at least 3 consecutive sessions.

After target sounds were identified, words beginning or ending with each target sound were selected using the following process. First, the MacArthur-Bates CDI lexical norms (Jorgensen, Dale, Bleses, & Fenson, 2010) were used to select words that at least 50% of 30-month-olds produce. Next, words were added to the list from the dictionary that were judged to likely be in the lexicon of a kindergarten student and to be easy to picture. Finally, the compiled lists were distributed to speech-language pathologists via a REDCap survey (<https://www.project-redcap.org>) to rate. The final list of words for each sound was the 20 that were rated most highly by **speech-language pathologists** for kindergarten students to have in their expressive vocabulary. Of these 20, 10 were randomly assigned to the assessment and 10 different words were assigned to intervention. Five of the 10 assigned to assessment were randomly selected to be included also in the intervention targets **to ensure that meeting mastery criterion involved success on taught and non-taught items**. Thus, 10 words were used in assessment and 15 in intervention; 5 words overlapped the two lists. Appendix A contains word lists for each participant.



**Intervention material development.** After word lists were finalized, intervention materials were created for each participant. First, colored line drawings or color photographs were downloaded for each target word from <https://www.iclipart.com>. For words assigned to the flashcard condition, pictures were printed on a white background (four per page). Thus, flashcards were approximately ¼ of an 8.5 x 11-inch page. This size allowed for easy “mailing” in a toy mailbox. Flashcards were shuffled before each session to create randomized instructional orders within the flashcard condition. For words assigned the tablet condition, pictures were placed on a Microsoft PowerPoint slide with a white background. A randomization macro was used to create 25 pre-randomized instructional order slideshows in the tablet condition.

**Probe assessments.** The probe assessment was a progress monitoring measure developed for this study. The probe assessment required children to say aloud the name of a color picture containing the sounds targeted in intervention. This task tapped participants’ speech sound of the target sound in the target word position. The examiner presented a colored picture of each stimulus word (e.g., sun) and asked the child to name the picture. If the child did not know the name of the picture, the examiner said, for example, “This is a sun. It makes it light outside. What is it called?”

Participants were assessed three times per week. Probe assessments consisted of 20 test items (10 items each of each target sound) and lasted approximately 10 minutes. Items in the probe assessments were administered in pre-determined randomized orders at each session. Prior to beginning intervention, participants completed four baseline sessions of probe assessment only. Experimental condition probes occurred at the outset of the research session. Following completion of intervention, participants completed four maintenance sessions of probe assessment only. **Probe assessment procedures were identical across the three conditions.**

**Experimental condition speech sound intervention.** A trained **speech-language pathology** student administered intervention for each participant. The second author developed a script for the intervention based on Shriberg and Kwiatkowski (1982). The second author administered intervention for two of the students, and an additional **speech-language pathology** student administered intervention for the other two. The first author administered three intervention sessions for each student, when the two **speech-language pathology** students were on spring break. The students read Shriberg and Kwiatkowski and practiced administering the intervention to the first author until they achieved >90% accuracy on the procedural fidelity checklist (described below). The first author observed the **speech-language pathology** students during the first week of intervention from an adjacent table to ensure procedural fidelity. Additional procedural fidelity procedures are described below.

Intervention lasted approximately 20 minutes, three days per week. In each session, approximately 10 minutes targeted one sound using flashcards and 10 minutes targeted a different sound using a tablet. Each session contained 30 instructional events as described below, 15 in each condition. Order effects were controlled by alternating the order of instructional conditions (flashcards, tablets) at each intervention session.

The speech sound intervention followed Shriberg and Kwiatkowski's drill model (Shriberg & Kwiatkowski, 1982). In this model, the researcher provided an antecedent instructional event before introducing the training stimulus. The antecedent instructional event consisted of the researcher describing and demonstrating the target sound. Then, the training stimulus was introduced either on a flashcard or on a tablet, depending on the experimental condition. The child then provided the target response by saying the name of the object pictured. Following the child's production, the researcher provided the subsequent instructional event. If

the target response contained the correct production of the target sound, the researcher provided praise that included a production of the target sound: “Very good. That’s right. You said the [target] sound correctly!” Following a correct production, the researcher provided the subsequent motivational event. The child got to perform a brief fun activity: “mailing” the flashcard in a small red mailbox or swiping to the next photo (i.e., Powerpoint slide) on the tablet. If the target response did not contain a correct production of the target sound, the researcher followed an instructional hierarchy with up to three steps. After an initial incorrect production, the researcher prompted a repetition: “That’s not quite right. Our sound is [target]. Try saying that word again.” If the second production was also incorrect, the researcher prompted the child to produce just the target sound: “Remember our sound is [target]. Try saying just the [first/last] sound of this word.” If the third production was incorrect, the researcher provided the target sound, exaggerating the duration and prompted the child to repeat it. If after the third instructional sequence, the child still did not produce the target sound correctly, training continued to the next training stimulus without the subsequent motivational event. The researcher “mailed” the flashcard or swiped to the next photo on the tablet.

**Procedural fidelity and reliability.** Intervention sessions were video recorded to allow for procedural fidelity checks, as well as calculation of reliability of progress monitoring assessment. Procedural fidelity was calculated for 1/3 of intervention sessions. A trained research assistant watched the video recorded session and logged the interventionist’s adherence to procedures, including targeting the correct sounds in the correct order and following the intervention protocol step-by-step. Overall procedural fidelity was 95%. The range of procedural fidelity scores across participants was 92 – 97%. Individual sessions ranged from 70 – 100%.

Additionally, all probe assessment sessions were video recorded to allow double scoring. Interventionists recorded child's scores on-line. The first author separately scored each assessment from video. The scores on each item were compared, and any differences were resolved by consensus. Therefore, final assessment scores represent 100% agreement between interventionists and the first author. As an additional check for reliability, a third researcher scored 30% of probe assessment sessions for each child **separately from the previous scoring**. This researcher was a doctoral student and a certified speech-language pathologist who was uninvolved in data collection. Overall reliability was 87.6%. Reliability across children ranged from 85% – 90%. Individual sessions ranged from 70 – 100%.

### **Data Analysis**

Analyses were conducted in two stages to compare the effectiveness and efficiency of flashcard-based speech sound therapy relative to technology-based speech sound therapy. First, visual analyses were completed. Results of each probe assessment were graphed to allow for visual examination of data, consistent with single subject design. Second, hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) was employed to quantify the magnitude of change across the study phases and differences between conditions (Davis et al., 2013). A three-level model, including data points nested within therapy sessions within children, was implemented to accommodate the design structure. Phase and condition were added as fixed effect predictors. HLM results were evaluated against findings from visual analyses for consistency.

## **Results**

### **Comparison of Effectiveness of Speech Sound Intervention by Modality**

The first purpose of this study was to compare the effectiveness of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards. As seen in Figure 1, visual analysis of the data for

each participant indicated that all participants met mastery criterion for all conditions. Therefore, tablets and flashcards are both effective modalities by which to deliver speech sound intervention. Visual analysis of the data in Figure 1 also indicates that all children maintained gains in speech sound production for each of their targeted sounds, even after intervention had concluded. With the exception of only one data point, children were 100% accurate at production of their target speech sounds on all probes in the maintenance condition

### **Comparison of Efficiency of Speech Sound Intervention by Modality**

The second purpose of this study was to compare the efficiency of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards. Table 3 displays the intervention sessions in which each participant met criterion for targeted sounds. The average time to mastery in the flashcard condition was 13.5 sessions ( $SD = 5.00$ ; range 7 – 19). For tablets, the average time to mastery was 18.0 sessions ( $SD = 2.44$ ; range 16 – 21). Therefore, although tablets and flashcards are both effective modalities by which to deliver speech sound intervention, flashcards appear to be a more efficient modality than tablets.

Each session contained 15 trials in each condition; therefore, participants needed approximately 203 instructional trials for mastery in the flashcard condition, compared to 270 instructional trials in the tablet condition. In terms of time in intervention, sessions were approximately 10 minutes for each condition; therefore, participants needed approximately 135 minutes of intervention for mastery in the flashcard condition, compared to approximately 180 minutes in the tablet condition. Cohen's  $d$  effect size was 1.14, indicating a large effect of intervention condition on sessions to mastery (Cohen, 1988), in favor of flashcards.

### **HLM Results**

To estimate the differential effectiveness of the two intervention conditions, predictors were added to the hierarchical linear models in stages (see Table 3). Approximately 13% of the variance in speech sound production values was attributable to unique child characteristics, with an additional 80% of the variability in performance attributable to the child's specific therapy session. These results indicate that there was some variability between children, as would be expected given the children's unique experiences, characteristics, and speech sound skills. Additionally, each child's speech sound production varied strongly **among** therapy sessions. Each child had days where she or he produced sounds with high accuracy and other days with lower accuracy. These findings are consistent with expectations for a child enrolled in speech sound therapy.

The addition of treatment phase as a predictor revealed that children made significant gains upon introduction of the speech sound intervention (Model One in Table 3). To facilitate interpretation of model coefficients, the active treatment phase was entered as the reference group, with the baseline phase and maintenance phases included as predictors. Results indicate that children demonstrated significantly lower speech sound accuracy in baseline compared to the intervention phase ( $-5.51, p < .001$ ). During the maintenance condition, children produced sounds with significantly greater accuracy than during treatment ( $2.97, p < .001$ ).

Condition was revealed to exhibit both a main effect (Model Two in Table 3) and interaction with phase (Model Three in Table 3). Overall, children produced speech sounds with slightly greater accuracy in the tablet condition compared to the flashcard condition ( $0.34, p = .006$ ). However, examination of condition-by-phase production revealed that this difference was not stable across phases. Children produced speech sounds with greater accuracy in the tablet

condition during the treatment phase ( $0.62, p < .001$ ), but exhibited higher rates of correct speech sound production in the flashcard condition during the maintenance phase ( $-0.68, p = .038$ ).

Overall, HLM results support those from the visual analyses. Most of the variance in child speech sound production was attributable to child-specific and session-within-child characteristics. Introduction of the speech sound treatment, regardless of the mode of delivery, yielded significant gains in speech sound production. Although there was a significant effect of condition, with the tablets producing a slightly higher effect overall, the difference was negligible when considered with the other factors.

### **Discussion**

To knowledge of the researchers, this is the first study to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of tablet-based speech sound intervention. Because tablet technology in speech sound therapy is widely used but has not been evaluated empirically to date, the purpose of this preliminary study was to compare (a) the effectiveness of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards, and (b) the efficiency of speech sound intervention using tablets versus flashcards. Recall that our a priori hypotheses were as follows. First, we anticipated children would improve to mastery on production of target sounds regardless of condition. This hypothesis was supported by the data. Second, we anticipated that children would make gains more quickly in the tablet condition. This hypothesis was not confirmed by the data. Our findings indicated that all kindergarten children met mastery for speech sound of target sounds in single word productions in both conditions. Contrary to our hypotheses, however, most children met criterion in the flashcard condition before they met criterion in the tablet condition. Performance overall was higher in the tablet condition during the treatment phase, but a review

of Figure 1 suggests that this difference was driven by Walter, who was the only of the four children to meet criterion first in the tablet condition.

The first important finding to note was that all participants within the study were able to meet mastery criteria for both conditions. **Speech-language pathologists** can be confident that either choice of intervention modality can lead to mastery for students with speech sound goals. It should also be noted that our mastery criteria (100% over 3 consecutive sessions) was more conservative than most clinical goals (e.g., 80%). **Speech-language pathologists** can also be confident that 100% accuracy is not an unattainable speech sound goal for many clients.

Second, although participants were able to meet mastery criteria in both conditions, three of the four participants met criterion in the flashcard condition before they met criterion in the tablet condition. This difference on average was almost 5 sessions, and effect size analysis indicated that the group difference was large. In the HLM analysis, the same pattern of results was observed. There was a small but significant effect of intervention condition favoring flashcards, but the estimate of magnitude of the effect was lower in the HLM analysis than Cohen's *d* effect size analysis.

The finding that flashcards may be a more efficient modality for speech sound intervention than tablets was unexpected. We anticipated that children would make quicker progress in the tablet condition, but the data did not support such a conclusion. Instead, our data support the use of low-tech therapy materials to boost speed of acquisition of instructional targets. This finding, however, should be interpreted with caution given the HLM analysis. Overall, the tablet condition provided a small effect, but the effect across treatment and maintenance phases was not consistent. Therefore, we conclude that **speech-language**



**pathologists** can be confident in using either flashcards or tablets to deliver speech sound intervention.

Finally, this study also showed that evidence-based speech sound intervention is effective in a short amount of time. Each week, the children participated in three therapy sessions that lasted approximately 20 minutes, 10 minutes targeting each sound. The average time spent on flashcard intervention to meet mastery criterion was two hours and fifteen minutes, and the average time spent on tablet intervention to meet mastery criterion was three hours. Thus, word-level speech sound errors for some children can be corrected in a fairly short amount of time. Stakeholders should continue to consider creative intervention delivery models separate from a traditional IEP, such as response-to-intervention.

As with all studies, the present investigation should be interpreted in light of the following limitation. Because of the single subject design, findings should be applied only to children who are similar to the current participants. Our participants did not present with phonological disorders or with childhood apraxia of speech; therefore, it would be inappropriate to apply these findings to those populations without further research. Finally, we did not include a measure to determine the students' previous experience with tablets. Future research should explore how children's experience with tablets may influence the efficiency of using that modality in speech sound intervention.

## **Conclusions**

The present investigation was the first to our knowledge to evaluate empirically the effectiveness and efficiency of tablet-based intervention. We specifically compared the use of tablets to flashcards to deliver an evidence-based speech sound intervention. Our findings indicated that both modalities were effective in increasing speech sound production skills in

kindergarten children; however, flashcards were generally more efficient than tablets. Further, motivation rankings indicated that children were highly motivated in each condition. We conclude **that low/no-tech treatment materials, which are less costly for clinicians, may be more** efficient for the delivery of speech-language interventions for many children. Further research is needed to further understand the efficiency of using tablets in speech-language therapy.

#### References

- ASHA (2018). 2018 Schools survey: SLP caseload and workload characteristics. Rockville, MD: ASHA. Retrieved from: <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/Schools-2018-SLP-Caseload-and-Workload-Characteristics.pdf>

- Baker, E., & McLeod, S. (2011). Evidence-based practice for children with speech sound disorders: Part 1 narrative review. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools, 42*, 102-139. doi:10.1044/0161-1461(2010/09-0075)
- Bishop, D., & Adams, C. (1990). A prospective study of the relationship between specific language impairment, phonological disorders, and reading achievement. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 31*, 1027-1050. doi:10.1111/j.1469-7610.1990.tb00844.x
- Brown, L., Sherbenou, R., & Johnsen, S. (2010). *Test of Nonverbal Intelligence* (4th ed.). Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.
- Cohen, J. (1988). *Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences* (2nd ed.). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Davis, D. H., Gagné, P., Fredrick, L. D., Alberto, P. A., Waugh, R. E., & Haardörfer, R. (2013). Augmenting visual analysis in single-case research with hierarchical linear modeling. *Behavior Modification, 37*(1), 62-89. doi: 10.1177/0145445512453734
- Dunn, L., & Dunn, D. (2007). *Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test* (4th ed.). San Antonio, TX: Pearson.
- Fernandes, B. (2011). iTherapy: The revolution of mobile devices within the field of speech therapy. *Perspectives on School-Based Issues, 12*, 35-40. doi:10.1044/sbi12.2.35
- Furlong, L., Erickson, S., & Morris, M. (2017). Computer-based speech therapy for childhood speech sound disorders. *Journal of Communication Disorders, 68*, 50-69. doi:10.1016/j.jcomdis.2017.06.007
- Gacnik, M., Starcic, A., Zaletelj, J., & Zajc, M. (2017). User-centred app design for speech sound disorders interventions with tablet computers. *Universal Access in the Information Society, Online First*, 1-12. doi:10.1007/s10209-017-0545-9

- Goldman, R., & Fristoe, M. (2000). *Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation*. San Antonio, TX: Pearson.
- Jorgensen, R., Dale, P., Bleses, D., & Fenson, L. (2010). CLEX: A cross-linguistic lexical norms database. *Journal of Child Language*, *37*, 419-428. doi:10.1017/S0305000909009544
- Lewis, B., Freebairn, L., Tag, J., Ciesla, A., Iyengar, S., Stein, C., & Taylor, H. (2015). Adolescent outcomes of children with early speech sound disorders with and without language impairment. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, *24*, 150-163. doi:10.1044/2014\_AJSLP-14-0075
- Shriberg, L., & Kwiatkowski, J. (1982). Phonological disorders II: A conceptual framework for management. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, *47*, 242-256.
- Sindelar, P., Rosenberg, M., & Wilson, R. (1985). An adapted alternating treatments design for instructional research. *Education & Treatment of Children*, *8*, 67-76.
- Swanson, H., & Sachse-Lee, C. (2000). A meta-analysis of single-subject-design intervention research for students with LD. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, *33*, 114-136.
- Taps, J. (2008). RTI services for children with mild speech sound needs: Four years of data. *Perspectives on School-Based Issues*, *9*, 104-110. doi:10.1044/sbi9.3.104

Table 1

*Description of Participants*

| <b>Participant</b> | <b>Age at Study Outset</b><br><b>(Years; Months)</b> | <b>Nonverbal Intelligence</b> | <b>Receptive Vocabulary</b> |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ashley             | 5;6  | 97                            | 110                         |
| David              | 5;10   | 109                           | 119                         |
| Joshua             | 5;8  | 101                           | 117                         |
| Walter             | 6;10   | 93                            | 96                          |

Table 2

*Intervention Targets for Each Participant*

| <b>Participant</b> | <b>Flashcard Condition</b> | <b>Tablet Condition</b> | <b>Differ By</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Ashley             | /z/                        | /s/                     | Voicing          |
| David              | /pl/                       | /gl/                    | Place/Voicing    |
| Joshua             | /ð/*                       | /θ/*                    | Voicing          |
| Walter             | /θ/*                       | /ð/*                    | Voicing          |

\* Final word position was targeted for these participants. Initial word position was targeted for all others.

Table 3

*Session in which Mastery was Reached for Each Participant by Condition*

| <b>Participant</b> | <b>Flashcard Condition</b> | <b>Tablet Condition</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ashley             | 13                         | 19                      |
| David              | 15                         | 21                      |
| Joshua             | 7                          | 16                      |
| Walter             | 19                         | 16                      |

Table 4

*Hierarchical Models of Speech Sound Production*

| <i>Predictors</i>                  | <b>Model One</b> |               |          | <b>Model Two</b> |               |          | <b>Model Three</b> |               |          |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|----------|
|                                    | <i>Est.</i>      | <i>CI</i>     | <i>p</i> | <i>Est.</i>      | <i>CI</i>     | <i>p</i> | <i>Est.</i>        | <i>CI</i>     | <i>p</i> |
| (Intercept)                        | 6.82             | 5.48 – 8.16   | <.001    | 6.65             | 5.31 – 7.99   | <.001    | 6.51               | 5.16 – 7.86   | <.001    |
| Baseline                           | -5.51            | -7.11 – -3.91 | <.001    | -5.51            | -7.11 – -3.91 | <.001    | -4.88              | -6.52 – -3.25 | <.001    |
| Maintenance                        | 2.97             | 1.41 – 4.53   | <.001    | 2.97             | 1.41 – 4.53   | <.001    | 3.31               | 1.72 – 4.90   | <.001    |
| Condition                          |                  |               |          | 0.34             | 0.10 – 0.58   | .006     | 0.62               | 0.35 – 0.89   | <.001    |
| Condition*Baseline                 |                  |               |          |                  |               |          | -1.25              | -1.89 – -0.60 | <.001    |
| Condition*Maintenance              |                  |               |          |                  |               |          | -0.68              | -1.31 – -0.05 | .038     |
| <b>Random Effects</b>              |                  |               |          |                  |               |          |                    |               |          |
| $\sigma^2$                         | 0.89             |               |          | 0.84             |               |          | 0.73               |               |          |
| $\tau_{00}$                        | 8.40             | Day:ChildID   |          | 8.43             | Day:ChildID   |          | 8.48               | Day:ChildID   |          |
|                                    | 1.42             | ChildID       |          | 1.42             | ChildID       |          | 1.42               | ChildID       |          |
| ICC                                | 0.78             | Day:ChildID   |          | 0.79             | Day:ChildID   |          | 0.80               | Day:ChildID   |          |
|                                    | 0.13             | ChildID       |          | 0.13             | ChildID       |          | 0.13               | ChildID       |          |
| Observations                       | 224              |               |          | 224              |               |          | 224                |               |          |
| Marginal $R^2$ / Conditional $R^2$ | 0.343 / 0.945    |               |          | 0.344 / 0.949    |               |          | 0.348 / 0.955      |               |          |



## Appendix A

## Word Lists for Each Participant

| Ashley     |         |              |           | David      |         |              |            |
|------------|---------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------------|------------|
| Assessment |         | Intervention |           | Assessment |         | Intervention |            |
| six        | zipcode | soda         | zeus      | globe      | planet  | glasses      | plumber    |
| say        | zinc    | sit          | zack      | glance     | please  | glad         | pliers     |
| sandwich   | zoo     | sock         | zap       | glow       | plus    | gloomy       | plant      |
| sing       | zest    | soft         | zebra     | glider     | plaid   | glacier      | plain      |
| sandbox    | zero    | sick         | zigzag    | glovebox   | pledge  | glide        | play       |
| soda       | zeus    | salt         | zucchini  | glasses    | plumber | glaze        | pluto      |
| sit        | zack    | soup         | zip       | glad       | pliers  | glue         | plug       |
| sock       | zap     | sad          | xylophone | gloomy     | plant   | gluegun      | plate      |
| soft       | zebra   | saddle       | zee       | glacier    | plain   | gloss        | player     |
| sick       | zigzag  | sink         | zipper    | glide      | play    | glob         | plow       |
|            |         | sailboat     | zone      |            |         | glare        | playdough  |
|            |         | sun          | zookeeper |            |         | glee         | playground |
|            |         | sister       | zoom      |            |         | glitter      | plum       |
|            |         | sofa         | ziti      |            |         | gloves       | plastic    |
|            |         | soap         | zillion   |            |         | glass        | plane      |

  

| Joshua     |          |              |          | Walter     |          |              |          |
|------------|----------|--------------|----------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Assessment |          | Intervention |          | Assessment |          | Intervention |          |
| south      | bathe    | faith        | sunbathe | wreath     | rebathe  | path         | wreathe  |
| mammoth    | smooth   | tooth        | scythe   | mouth      | teethe   | earth        | sheathe  |
| month      | scathe   | fourth       | writhe   | moth       | bathe    | tooth        | loathe   |
| truth      | seethe   | moth         | loathe   | math       | tithe    | south        | blithe   |
| mouth      | soothe   | path         | teethe   | teeth      | lathe    | cloth        | sunbathe |
| faith      | sunbathe | earth        | wreathe  | path       | wreathe  | bath         | smooth   |
| tooth      | scythe   | booth        | sheathe  | earth      | sheathe  | mammoth      | seethe   |
| fourth     | writhe   | length       | clothe   | tooth      | loathe   | truth        | swathe   |
| moth       | loathe   | teeth        | unclothe | south      | blithe   | booth        | scathe   |
| path       | teethe   | bath         | lathe    | cloth      | sunbathe | faith        | writhe   |
|            |          | wreath       | blithe   |            |          | fourth       | scythe   |
|            |          | both         | swathe   |            |          | both         | soothe   |
|            |          | cloth        | rebathe  |            |          | length       | unclothe |
|            |          | north        | breathe  |            |          | month        | clothe   |
|            |          | math         | tithe    |            |          | north        | breathe  |

**Figure Caption**

*Figure 1.* Visual representation of progress monitoring data. Each student is represented on a separate graph, and conditions are represented by color. Gray indicates the flashcard condition, and black represents the tablet condition.