The Success of the Young Parenthood Program

Spencer Hall, Sasha Mondragon, Paul Florsheim, Laura McArthur, Mark Gaskill
Department of Psychology, University of Utah

The goal of this study is to assess the short-term effectiveness of the Young Parenthood Program (YPP), a preventive-intervention program designed to help pregnant adolescents and their partners develop positive co-parenting skills. This program aims to improve upon levels of hostility control, warmth and satisfaction within the context of the co-parenting relationship. It is hypothesized that (1) program participants (versus controls) will be more warmly engaged, less hostile, and report higher levels of relationship satisfaction at the first post-natal follow-up (T2). It focuses on three measures of the couples’ relationship: the Quality of Relationship Inventory (QRI), the Experience in Close Relationship Scale—Revised (ECRS-R), and the Relationship Capacity Coding Scheme (RCCS). A total of 56 couples have participated thus far (N=28 per group).

Early analyses indicate an increase in RCCS scores from prenatal assessment (T1) to 6-8 week post-natal follow-up (T2) for fathers (but not the mothers) in the intervention (intervention X factor = 3.52, p < .05). No significant interaction was found for QRI and ECRS scores from T1 to T2. Results indicate that there may be some short-term improvement in the fathers’ relational capacities; however, it is still very early to draw any conclusions.

Difficulties and Challenges Facing Users of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices: What Can Professionals Do To Facilitate Effective Usage?

Jennifer Harris, (Brenda Gunnison)
University Writing Program, University of Utah

While human interaction is one of the most basic needs for social development, communication is a challenge for individuals with hearing and speech impairment. Fortunately, technology has provided the use and development of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems. Utterance-based systems are just one example of an AAC system now available for the speech and hearing impaired. Although these systems and devices can assist the user in expressing thoughts and ideas through voice, there are difficulties in using the AAC system for effective communication. It is the responsibility of Speech and Language Professionals to make every effort to assist their patients in developing the most effective forms of communication available for the use of their patients.

There is a need to evaluate what difficulties AAC users experience and how professionals can assist in implementing the use of the devices. My research explores what these difficulties and challenges are and investigates how professional speech therapists can most effectively combat the issues that lead to discouragement and implementation delay. Research today will lead to better discussion tomorrow, working together with the community, Speech and Language Professionals will make important contributions by helping hearing impaired patients integrate seamlessly with the hearing world.