

# Request #: 542 - SPED - Dissertation

The effect of a narrative intervention on the production of complex sentences by children at-risk for language disorders

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## Background

I have been helping with a RCT examining the effectiveness of a program designed to improve children's production of stories (narratives). I am interested if the program has a secondary effect of also increasing the number {&} type of complex sentences the children produce while making their stories.

## Sample

I have collected pre-test and post-test data on children's language abilities as well as analyzed transcripts of the children's stories for types of utterances used, grammaticality, and intelligibility of the words.

120 participants are included in this study with 240 transcripts (1 at pretest and 1 at posttest).

## Hypothesis

Research question 1: In comparison to a business as usual control group, do at-risk children who were randomized to the SKILL treatment present greater gains on the proportion of complex sentences produced on the Aliens subtest of the Test of Narrative Language, 2nd Edition and on the Oral Narrative measure collected immediately after the completion of the intervention?

Research question 2: In comparison to a business as usual control group, do at-risk children who were randomized to the SKILL treatment include a greater variety of complex sentences on the Aliens subtest of the Test of Narrative Language, 2nd Edition and on the Oral Narrative measure collected immediately after the completion of the intervention?

I hypothesize that they the treatment group will have a greater proportion of complex sentences produced after completing the program. I am also hypothesizing that the treatment group will have a greater variety of types of complex clauses used.

I have also collected data on whether the participants' utterances were grammatical which will allow for examining if grammaticality changes as children attempt to produce more complex sentences.

## Progress

I have organized and cleaned my data and begun to set up my analyses in R.

## Request

I am using multivariate linear regression but whenever I try to add random effects to the model, I get error messages. I am guessing that either I have not set up my variables correctly or I am using the wrong analyses.

## **Timeline**

I am planning on defending this summer and so the sooner I can complete my data analysis, the sooner I can get to writing my results/discussion section.