Communication strategies in therapy with stuttering children. Parent's experiences

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Speak with your child in an unhurried way, pausing frequently
Help all members of the family learn to take turns talking and listening
Set aside a few minutes at a regular time each day when you can give your undivided attention to your child
Reduce the number of questions you ask your child

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Goals

1. To examine the success of the implementation of the communication instructions of the SLT in daily life from parental perspective.
2. To look where the SLT can optimize the counseling of the parents of stuttering children.

Inclusion criterions

- School- or preschool children with the diagnosis stuttering
- The child is in speech therapy or the parents have been counseled by a SLT
- Emotional, learn- or neurologic diseases have not been diagnosed
- The parents understand and speak German fluently
- Informed consent of the SLT and of parent that cares for the child

Collecting data

- Employing semi-structured interviews
- Guideline-based
- Nine parents of stuttering children were polled

Guideline-based interview

- Please tell me what you can do at home to reduce the stuttering of your child.
- How did you deal with these communication strategies?
- How was the reaction of the family as you applied these communication strategies?
- Which strategy(s) did you find effective?
- Do you have recommendations for the SLT how the counseling concerning the communication strategies could be improved?
Data analysis

- A code tree (MAXQDA)
- Typology
- 6 categories
- 4 prototypes

Categories

- Attitude of parents towards the advice
- Cooperativeness
- Realization of the communication strategies
- Initiative to choose communication strategies
- Influence of the environment
- Risk estimation

Typology

Results. After the data analysis, four different prototypes were identified:

- “The responsible”: often insecure
- “The obedient”: glad about advice
- “The impersonal”: skeptical, desultory
- “The resigned”: resignation, refusing

Anamnesis

- What is the attitude of the parent towards change of behavior?
- Find out the self-efficacy of the parents: Can and will the parent cooperate and participate actively?
- How does the parent estimate the risks of the speech problem?
- How does the parent describe the influence of the environment?

What has to be done?

Tips for the SLT

The responsible: often insecure

- Choose a client-orientated attitude, verbalize emotions
- Have a curious attitude: Ask questions
- Use a solutions-orientated approach
- Enable a change of perspective: Not only the recommended strategy is important, but also the experience of the other members of the family

Böttner & Quindel, Gesprächsführung und Beratung, 2005, Springer Verlag
Tips for the SLT

The obedient: glad about advice
- Verbalize and paraphrase parental emotions
- Appreciate the worries of the parents
- Set positive goals in the present and future

The impersonal: skeptical, desultory
- Appreciate the worries of the parents
- Have a curious attitude: Ask questions
- Don’t keep your own usual habits
- Avoid pressure

Büttner & Quindel, Gesprächsführung und Beratung, 2005, Springer Verlag

The resigned: resignation, refusing
- Find possibilities to relief the parent
- Find the resources of the parent
- Take your time in therapy to discuss the worries of the parent

Büttner & Quindel, Gesprächsführung und Beratung, 2005, Springer Verlag

Thank you all for your attention!

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