

# Group Phonological Awareness Intervention: It Works!

Appropriateness of Health Care

Prepared by Melinda Hewitt  
Group Phonological Awareness Intervention: It Works!

Greater Southern Area Health Service

October 2006

# Aim

---

- To evaluate the efficacy and validity of group phonological awareness intervention using two service delivery models and pre- and post- test standardised testing.

# Background

- Phonological Awareness
  - Explicit awareness of the sound structure of language
  - The identification, manipulation, deletion, segmentation, and blending of syllables and phonemes (sounds)
- PA skills are needed by all children for literary success, and children with speech and/or language problems are at a greater risk for developing poor reading and/or spelling abilities
- Large numbers of children were presenting upon initial assessment with severe deficits in PA skills.

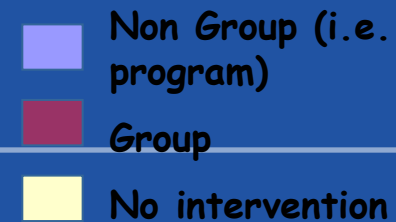
# Methodology

- Children identified as having PA deficits were assessed and if they scored greater than -1 SD below the mean, were placed into a group pathway.
  - Intensive pathway program: 1 hour per day for 5 days (Total: 5 hours)
  - Weekly pathway program: 50mins each week for 6 weeks (Total: 5 hours)
- The children were re-assessed within 3 weeks of completing the group, with a comparison made between pre- and post- test scores. Qualitative data was obtained from both parents and participants.

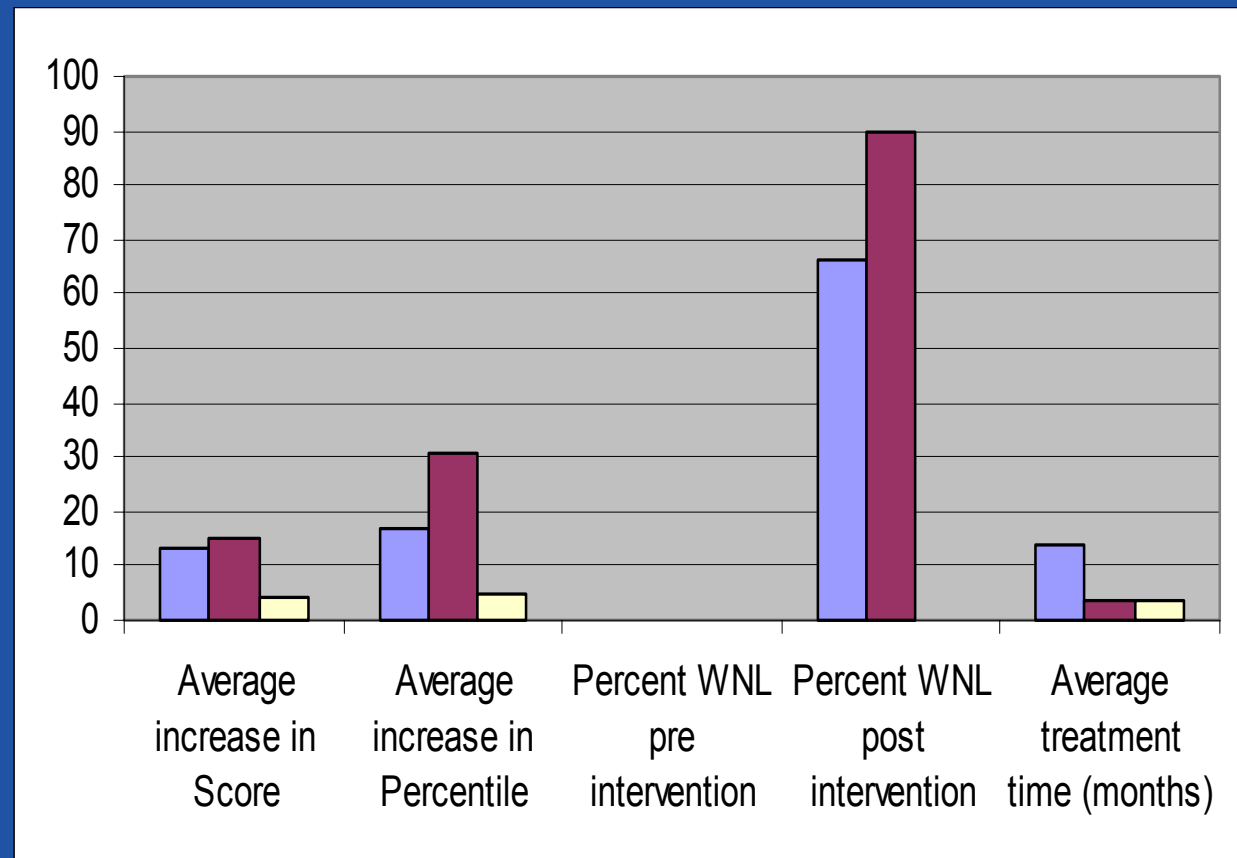
# Planning & Implementation

- Past programming had limited effectiveness
- Targeting PA in a group situation had the potential to be a more effective PA treatment program.
  - Research was conducted into the development of PA skills
  - A group program was written that had capacity to be carried out via two different service delivery models.
- An evaluation of the PAG program was initiated.
- 3 different treatments compared: Group vs. Non Group vs. No intervention

# Outcomes & Evaluation



- 92% increase in participants scores
- 90% of participants had scores WNL post program
- Parent/Carer reports were 100% positive



# Lessons Learned

- Group intervention for phonological awareness works!
  - Ages and stages
  - Documentation
- Importance of parental involvement
  - Perceptions and feedback
  - Increase involvement for next program

# Future Scope

---

- Group intervention targeting PA skills is significantly effective in improving the PA abilities of participants.
- Include a separate group for parents in the next program
- Increased awareness of risk of PA difficulties following speech and/or language difficulties.
- Potential to be implemented by any Speech Pathologist treating children with PA difficulties.