



## Children's Active Engagement in Public School Language Therapy Relates to Greater Gains

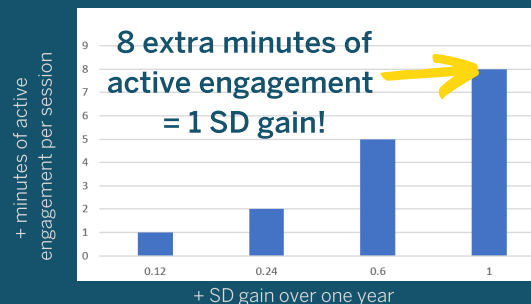
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This study included 135 children with DLD in grades K-2. 70 school SLPs provided business-as-usual therapy for one school year. Using therapy videos, researchers studied children's responses during therapy tasks to determine if engagement played a role in language gains over the year.

- **ACTIVE engagement** (e.g., answering questions, making comments, following directions)
- **PASSIVE engagement** (e.g., listening, looking, waiting)
- **OFF TASK behaviors** (e.g., uninvolved in directed task)

Children spent an average of **2.9 minutes actively engaged** during the average 23-minute therapy session.

Every additional interval of active engagement (15 seconds) was associated with + .03 SD of language gain.



**Results show a significant, positive correlation between active engagement and language gains.**

Given these findings, SLPs are encouraged to promote active engagement for each child in language therapy sessions.

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