

'MetaTaal': A Metalinguistic Intervention Approach

Are you a speech-language pathologist working on complex syntax with students who have specific language impairment? This program might be the right answer for your clients.

PROGRAM DETAILS

'MetaTaal' focuses on explicitly teaching the rules of grammar using a metalinguistic and multi-modal approach.



Target Population

'MetaTaal' is intended for older school-age children who have...

- specific language impairment (SLI)
- one or more therapy goals related to complex syntax
- sufficient literacy skills to complete intervention tasks

Defining Features

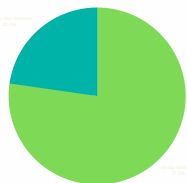


- *Metalinguistic:*
 - Explicit teaching of grammatical rules
- *Multimodal:*
 - Use of colors and shapes as visual supports
 - Engagement of visual, auditory, tactile/kinesthetic, and motor systems

Importance

SLI intervention is often designed for younger children because emphasis is placed on early identification and intervention. This means that older children with SLI can fall through the cracks. 'MetaTaal' helps close this gap by providing intervention for this underserved population.

In a literature review of 22 articles about treatment for children with SLI,¹ only 5 studies (less than 23%) targeted older school-age children.



- Articles with populations under 7 years
- Articles with populations 8 years and older

Total analyzed articles on treatment for children with SLI

Materials

'MetaTaal' uses specific colors and sizes of Lego® bricks to visually represent and organize the parts of speech present in complex sentences.

determiner			noun
verb			adjective
preposition			complementizer

EVIDENCE

Outcomes²



As little as 5 hours of 'MetaTaal' can improve a child's production of complex sentences.

Significant improvements have been observed in the composition, repetition, and recreation of relative clauses.



Compared to production, no significant improvements have been observed in comprehension of complex sentences.

Improvements have been maintained 3 months post-intervention.



Next Steps

If you think that 'MetaTaal' may be effective for one of your school-age clients, click here for more information on the program and its training:

<https://shop.auris.nl/metataal-multimodale-en-metalingu%C3%AFstische-taaltherapie-voor-oudere-kinderen-met-tos>



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Sources:

- ¹Coloma Tirapegui, C. J., Rojas Contreras, D. P., & De Barbieri Ortiz, Z. D. C. (2019). Grammar intervention in children with specific language impairment: An integrative literature review. *Revista CEFAC*, 21(4).
²Zwitsersloot, R., Wijnen, F., van Weerdenburg, M., & Verhoeven, L. (2015). 'MetaTaal': Enhancing complex syntax in children with specific language impairment – A metalinguistic and multimodal approach. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*, 50(3), 273-297.