

Imitation Coding in the Communication Success Project

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Coding for imitation helps researchers get a more correct idea of the child's communication abilities. When the child imitates the speech pathologist, it shows that the child is able to produce the word but cannot come up with the utterance on their own. Imitations are not counted in SALT because researchers in the Communication Success Project are only interested in what the children are capable of producing themselves. In the lab, we marked an [i] to denote that the child imitated the speech pathologists. When the video files were first coded in SALT, the imitation mark was not included in the transcription process, which resulted in false data. By going back through the files and adding an [i], the data became more reliable.