

Prosodic abilities in children with dysarthria due to cerebral palsy

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The speech of children with dysarthria due to cerebral palsy (CP) is often characterised by respiratory and phonatory difficulties. This can affect prosodic control and impact on how the children use acoustic parameters to convey linguistic function. In this talk, I will explore the prosodic abilities of children with dysarthria due to CP with a focus on the linguistic functions of marking sentence stress and signalling questions and statements. I will present findings related to the acoustic realisation of both linguistic functions, and complement these by results from listener perception studies to establish whether the children were successful in marking sentence stress and signalling the question-statement contrast. I will discuss these findings in the context of the acquisition of prosodic markers in children with typical and atypical developmental trajectories.