



Speech Therapy Articulation Rehabilitation

THE STAR PROJECT

A 2-year NIHR funded project is currently underway, bringing together the expertise of the University of Sheffield, Barnsley –Barnsley Hospital and Therapy Box. The STAR (Speech Therapy Articulation Rehabilitation) Project will deliver a revolutionary iPad app designed to allow people to complete independent self-practice related to speech production goals with instant feedback from the app.

The STAR project will trial the app with two distinct client groups:

Adults who have dysarthria as a result of a stroke, brain injury or neurological condition

Children with hearing impairment

The STAR project builds on previous research, which showed that adults with speech difficulties made improvements using computer based therapy programmes. The app in this project will be innovative in being the first app to accurately measure and provide game based feedback to adults and children on the accuracy of their speech production.

Speech therapists will be able to set up the app to use with multiple clients on their caseloads, and receive regular updates on their progress. The app is certainly a step forward in helping bridge gaps in therapy provision; help with independent carry-over of goals and assist with maintenance.

This app will be unique amongst apps so far available on the market for articulation therapy, as it will include voice recognition software, enabling it to give accurate feedback to users on their progress.

We are also proud of the approach to the design which the team have taken – involving clinicians and potential app users right from the start to ask what they would want from an app and continuing the co-design approach through prototype evaluation and incorporating this input into development of the final product

The advanced speech recognition technology that sits behind the apps has been crafted over many years by the team at Sheffield University. Working closely with the Barnsley Hospital team, the apps will be refined based on input from clinicians working in this area, and also, most importantly, clients who would potentially benefit from the apps.

Therapy Box are excited to be bringing this app to market, and are designing the app to take the latest in game and app design to make sure the apps are not just a useful clinical tool, but also engaging for clients of all ages.

Meet the team behind the project



Dr Stuart Cunningham,
Senior Lecturer at the
University of Sheffield
and Principal
Investigator of the
STAR project



Siddharth Sehgal,
Research Associate at
the University of
Sheffield

Prof Mark Hawley,
Professor of Health
Services Research at
the University of
Sheffield and Co-
Applicant of the STAR
project



Simon Judge,
Clinical Scientist at
Barnsley Hospital and
Co-Applicant of the
STAR project



Dr Rebecca Palmer,
Senior Academic Clinical
Lecturer at the
University of Sheffield
and Co-Applicant of
the STAR project



Karen Booth,
Business Manager at
the University of
Sheffield

Dr Anna-Winona Struck,
Biomedical Research
Project Manager at the
University of Sheffield



Lise Sproson,
ART Research
Associate at NIHR
Devices for Dignity,
Sheffield



Dr Avril McCarthy
MedTech Lead at NIHR
Devices for Dignity,
Sheffield



Dr Raffaella Roncone,
Senior Programme
Manager, NIHR i4i

Simant Verma,
Developer Therapy Box



Kuldip Sawant,
Designer Therapy Box





Swapnil Gadgil,
CEO Therapy Box



Rebecca Bright,
Speech Therapist
Therapy Box



Jasveer Mohindru,
Project manager

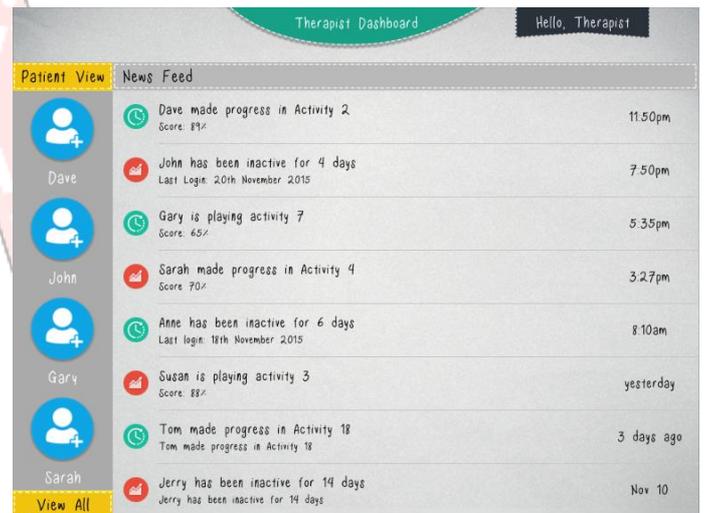
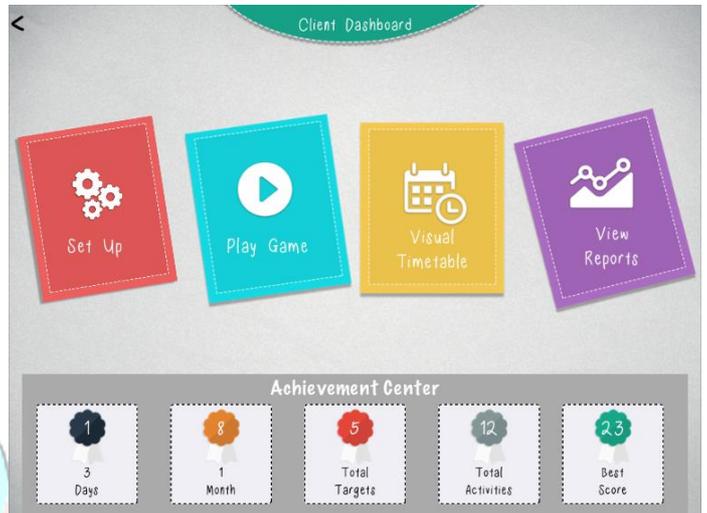
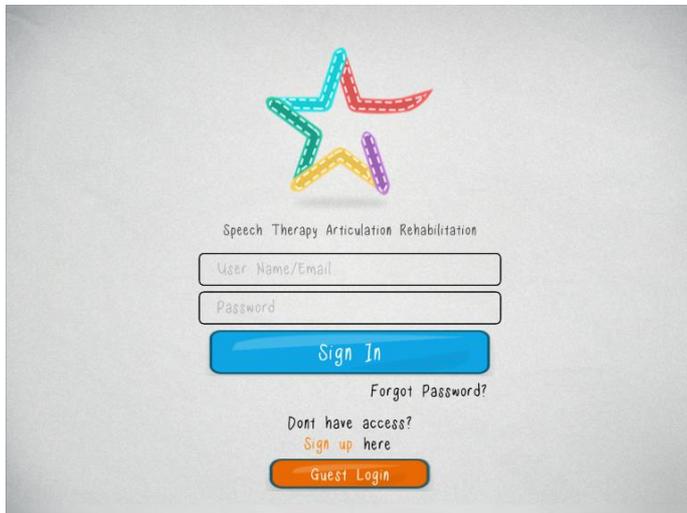


Sam Saunders,
Developer Therapy Box



Progress so far

The project kicked-off in 2014 and work is underway in preparing the technology to underpin the app. Developers at Sheffield and Therapy Box are busy with lots of behind the scenes development that will allow the apps to be super accurate and give clinicians the necessary data to monitor their clients' performance. The designers are working on preparing all of the artwork that goes into each and every screen that you will see in the app. Meanwhile, Lise and Rebecca have been conducting important focus groups with clinicians to make sure that the apps are user-friendly for both therapists and clients. Lots of work is also underway to secure the intellectual property rights for the innovative technology.



Acknowledgement

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Speech

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