



SpeechEasy



An Advanced Tool for the Treatment of
Stuttering

What is SpeechEasy?

- It is a fluency-enhancing device which is fully portable and inconspicuous.
- It is made of a hard plastic and looks very similar to a hearing aid.
- Worn in only one ear of the client.
- It is powered by the use of hearing aid batteries.

What is SpeechEasy?

- **It is another tool in your toolbox and another option for your clients who stutter.**
- It works with traditional therapy – it does not replace it.
- It enables your clients to use active fluency techniques with less effort.

What is the Theory Behind SpeechEasy?

Stuttering can be “inhibited” through
the use of choral speech.

What is Choral Speech?

- Choral speech:
 - Can induce fluent speech most people who stutter.
 - Can be immediate, effortless and natural sounding.
 - Is the most potent “inhibitor” of stuttering.
- SpeechEasy emulates choral speech.

How Does SpeechEasy Work?

- Delayed Auditory Feedback (DAF)
 - Delays what the speaker hears by a few milliseconds (ms)
 - Ranges from 0ms to 220ms
 - DAF provides an echo effect for the user
- Frequency Altered Feedback (FAF)
 - Alters the pitch perception of the user's voice
 - Can be raised or lowered in 500Hz increments
 - All sounds passing through the device will be affected by the FAF

How Does SpeechEasy Work?

- DAF and FAF are used in conjunction to emulate choral speech.
- The combination of DAF and FAF is often referred to as Altered Auditory Feedback (AAF).
- Choral speech is emulated from the user hearing their voice delayed and at a new pitch.
- The delay and the pitch change sound like a different person talking along with the user.



Research and Supporting Literature

- The Mirror Neuron System
- These papers appear in the September 19th issue of Current Biology, published by Cell Press
 - Lisa Aziz-Zadeh, et.al., University of Parma, Italy, UCLA
 - Christian Keysers, et.al., University of Groningen, The Netherlands and UC Berkely
 - Simone Schutts- et.al., University of London, the max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Germany, and the University of Rome

Research and Supporting Literature

- SpeechEasy AAF Device Long-Term Clinical Trials
- Dr. Larry Molt at Auburn University
- Dividing his research study into three components
 - Usage Patterns and Satisfaction Ratings
 - Attitudinal/Perceptual Measures
 - Speech Fluency and Naturalness Measures

Research and Supporting Literature

- Currently has ~15 participants at the 24 month mark
- He plans to start the publishing process with the data gathered thus far from these 15 participants
- Dr. Molt will continue to follow the other 20 participants until the 24 month mark
- Data collection beyond that is possible

Research and Supporting Literature

- SpeechEasy: Altered Auditory Feedback in Adults with Persistent Developmental Stuttering
- Anne L. Foundas, M.D. – Tulane University
- Edward G. Conture, Ph.D – Vanderbilt University
 - The purpose of this proposed study is to assess how SpeechEasy influences stuttering in adults with persistent developmental stuttering (PDS).

Research and Supporting Literature

- The first experiment is designed to examine specific parameters (delayed auditory feedback-DAF, frequency altered feedback-FAF settings, Ear Placement-Right versus Left Ear) on amelioration of stuttering.
- A second experiment is designed to determine whether there is a relationship between atypical auditory temporal anatomy and response to altered auditory feedback (SpeechEasy) in adults with PDS.

Research and Supporting Literature

- SpeechEasy Research Review Panel
 - The Review Panel will consist of five or six highly experienced and respected professionals with a mix of backgrounds in speech pathology, neurology, and/or pediatrics, each with experience and an interest in stuttering.
 - Purpose is to help us concept future clinical studies, to solicit proposals, and to then review the proposals, choose the appropriate one and optimize it.

What is SpeechEasy?

- Available in four shell styles
 - Behind the Ear (BTE)
 - Customized ear mold is required
 - In the Canal (ITC)
 - Fits inside the ear canal and has an external volume control on the faceplate
 - Completely in the Canal (CIC)
 - Fits completely in the ear canal and the external volume control is optional
 - Comfort Fit (CF)
 - Main electronics of the device are not in the ear therefore there is a large passage for natural sound

What is SpeechEasy?

CF, CIC, ITC and BTE shell styles



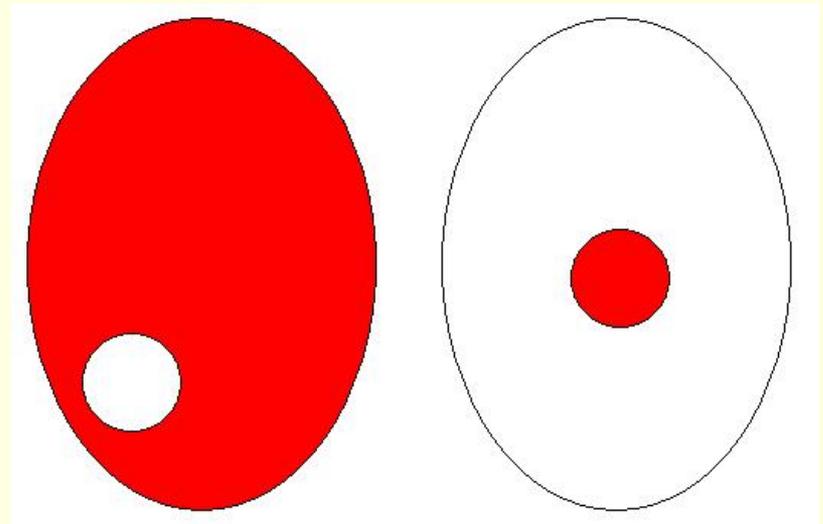
Comfort Fit Device

- Benefits
 - Natural hearing
 - Reduced background noise
 - Extremely low visibility



What is a Comfort Fit Device

- One drawback of the CIC, ITC or BTE devices is occlusion
- The Comfort Fits helps address that concern
- Representation of the ear canal and occlusion
 - Occlusion is represented by red where open sound passage is represented by white.



Current device with vent

Comfort Fit device

Warranties

- 60 day trial period

- Every client has 60 days from the day they pick up their custom device to try it in the “real world”. If, for whatever reason, they decide to return the device, they receive a 90% refund on the cost of the device.

- 1 year manufacturers warranty

- Each SpeechEasy is covered by a one year manufacturer warranty against mechanical defects. This does not cover loss, theft, accident or negligence.

What is SpeechEasy?

- The cost of the device ranges from \$4100 to \$5100, depending on which shell style is most appropriate.
- The evaluation is charged separately and typically ranges from \$300 to \$500, depending on the providing location.
- Audiological fees may also be a factor.

Cost Analysis

- Compare money spent on traditional therapy throughout the years.
- Compare money spent on intensive clinics and/or other devices.
- Compare the cost of other AAC devices.
- All these are great options and work for many PWS.
- The SpeechEasy is comparable in price to all these other options.

Funding Options

- All offices accept credit cards, personal checks and offer financing options such as CareCredit.
- Other payment options or financial assistance may include: Vocational Rehabilitation Services, VA benefits, Flexible Spending Plans through employers, civic organizations, community organizations and foundations.

Funding Options

- To assist with filing insurance claims Janus Development Group, Inc. has contracted with Healthcare Reimbursement Solutions, Inc. (HRSI).
- HRSI will file claims and conduct any necessary appeals at no charge to the client.
- The client will need to fill out an application which can be obtained from the providing SLP or from Janus.
- This step can be taken before or after purchasing a device.

Funding Options

- SpeechEasy Leasing Program
 - Helps to address affordability
 - Lowers the up-front cost
 - Low down payment \$1229 - \$1749
 - Allows for monthly payments
 - Low monthly payments \$86 - \$121
 - Lower interest rate than other financing options
 - Interest rate of 9%
 - Comprehensive coverage
 - Loss and damage for 4 years through ESCO
 - 4 year Manufacturer Warranty

Evaluation Process

- Every SpeechEasy provider is state licensed as well as ASHA certified.
- Throughout the evaluation, providers strive to minimize the expectations of the client.
- Each SpeechEasy evaluation typically lasts between 2 and 3 hours.
- A visit with an audiologist is also part of the evaluation process.

Evaluation Process

- During the evaluation, the SLP will:
 - Gain baseline data by assessment and interview.
 - Fit and assess the benefit of SpeechEasy.
 - Typically allow the client to field test the device outside the office.
 - Discuss next steps and options.

Evaluation Process

- If the client orders a SpeechEasy – the process does not end there.
- When the client comes to pick up a device, the providing SLP will:
 - Check the overall fit of the device.
 - Teach the client how to insert and remove the device.
 - Perform device programming and make any final changes to the settings.
 - Adjust the volume.
 - Demonstrate proper care and maintenance.
 - Demonstrate additional therapeutic techniques.

Who is Appropriate for SpeechEasy?

- SpeechEasy is not for everyone.
- Some characteristics that may indicate an appropriate candidate for a device are:
 - Able to hear and respond to choral speech.
 - Motivated.
 - Have had good fluency therapy.
 - Open minded and realistic.
 - Ready to address their stuttering.
 - Responsible for wanting to change their speaking patterns.

Who is Appropriate for SpeechEasy?

- In some instances children can benefit from wearing a SpeechEasy device.
 - The recommended age for SpeechEasy is 8, but the providing SLP along with others can help determine if an individual is an appropriate candidate or not.
- SpeechEasy is designed and developed for use with those whose primary and only diagnosis is stuttering.
 - However, many individuals with concurrent disabilities or impairments in addition to stuttering have been evaluated for and are successful with the device.

Who is Appropriate for SpeechEasy?

- As with any client, no matter what the age, many factors play a part in how much benefit can be gained.
- The only way to know if SpeechEasy is appropriate or not is to be evaluated by a providing SLP.

How Can You Help?

- You can refer your clients for a SpeechEasy evaluation by:
 - Locating the closest provider from our website www.speecheasy.com.
 - You can look up providers by state or by a zip code.
 - The zip code function will give you the 5 closest providers.

How Can You Help?

- Providing SLPs encourage you to be directly involved with the entire SpeechEasy process.
 - Accompany your client to the initial evaluation
 - Ask questions
 - Give opinions
- Providing SLPs support your clients' return to you for continued therapy.
- You and the providing SLP are working toward the same goal – **increased fluency for your client.**

SLP Certification Program

- SLPs can be certified by Janus Development Group to provide follow-up therapy to their clients who may have purchased a SpeechEasy device.
- This allows an interested SLP to gain more knowledge about how the SpeechEasy device works and gives them in depth background information.

SLP Certification Program

- The SLP Certification course is FREE!
- Go online to www.speecheasy.com
- Click on the “Healthcare Professionals and Educators Enter Here”
- Click on “Online SLP Certification Program”



866-551-9042

www.speecheasy.com