# <u>iQsonics LLC Annual Report - 2022</u>

## **OUR MISSION**



iQsonics integrates sound and neuroscience for health, education and fun. Our team of researchers, neuroscientists, programmers, musicians, artists, therapists, educators and entrepreneurs design products and services that reach the target population in clinics, schools and families at home.

## SS4Kids Research Published in Peer-reviewed Journal



Sing and Speak 4 Kids IES / Dept. of Education funded research study that supports our program as an evidence-based practice, was published in the peer-reviewed Child Language Teaching and Therapy – SAGE Journals. SS4Kids uses theoretical evidence along with a novel strategy that offers a combination of music, gameplay, digital delivery with low cost to any internet connected device.

Funded by: IES / Dept. of Education

Research Article Title: Effect of Sing and Speak 4 Kids: An Online Music-Based Speech and

Language Learning Game for Children in Early Intervention **Authors:** Hayoung A. Lim, Erica M. Ellis, David Sonnenschein

First Published on: February 15, 2022

**Child Language Teaching and Therapy** is an international peer-reviewed journal which aims to be the leading inter-disciplinary journal in the field of intervention for and management of children's speech, language and communication needs. The journal publishes original research and review articles of high practical relevance, and which emphasize inter-disciplinary collaboration.

## **California Regional Centers Partnership**



We received authorization by Westside Regional Center (Los Angeles), a member of the California Regional Centers statewide network, as an approved **vendor**. Our Sing and Speak 4 Kids program is now serving up to 1000 eligible families with children 3+ in need of speech-language support with this fun and engaging game. SS4Kids is the first digital online program to offer services through Westside Regional Center, as they have embraced our evidence-based solution for those who have had challenges in receiving in-person services during the pandemic.

Westside Regional Center is part of CA Department of Developmental Services (DDS), which oversees the coordination and delivery of services for Californians with developmental disabilities through a statewide network of 21 community-based, non-profit agencies known as regional centers. Regional centers provide assessments, determine eligibility for services, and offer case management services. Regional centers also develop, purchase, and coordinate the services in each person's Individual Program Plan.

# Parent and Professional Focus Groups



The goal of the focus groups was to investigate the current and optimal use of our online music-based program, Sing and Speak 4 Kids (SS4Kids), that supports speech-language development in children ages 2-6 years with speech delays. Activities included:

- One-on-one interviews via Zoom or phone
- o In-group discussions via Zoom
- 2 weeks usage of SS4Kids program with a child
- Professional-parent online interactions
- Some professionals with small groups of children in-person
- Surveys

Besides SS4Kids / iQsonics team members and advisors, our team of interns from **University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill)** helped conduct this focus group, with Esil Empig as lead coordinator along with her cohorts, Anthony Cerniglia and Rusty Bridgers.

#### **Brief Summary of our Findings**

## **Words Participants Used to Describe SS4Kids:**

- "Fun, Different, Engaging"
- o "Effective, Fun, Improvement"
- "Evidence-based, interactive, family-friendly, and engaging"
- "Engaging and Methodological"
- "Fun, Interactive, User Friendly"
- "Fun and helpful and engaging"

#### Participants Liked:

- Easy for both parents and professionals to register for the game
- How the game benefits by improving communication
- How easy the game was to use and navigate
- The structure of the game was also very helpful especially with repetition
- Children like the congratulations after getting a question right
- Slow pace of the songs
- The singing and speaking components of the songs were very simple and easy to follow for children
- Game play was clear and engaging
- Simple and fun melodies of the songs

## **Room for improvement:**

- o Professionals struggled to get parents to register for the game.
- Non-verbal options could be implemented into the game. Suggestions included having questions where children can click on images on the game.
- Have different levels within the game. Group easier songs together. Another suggestion can be to have a feature that in order to unlock a new song, you need to "master" another song.
- Have an app version of the game. This was a very common suggestion provided by parent and professional participants.

#### **End Result:**

From the brief summary we provided along with the more detailed data we have collected from this Focus Group, we have already come up with various ways to improve and market our game, and make the impact we have been hoping to make with Sing and Speak 4 Kids. We have taken initiative to move forward with these comments and suggestions to make Sing and Speak 4 Kids the best speech delay development tool for parents, caregivers, clinicians, teachers, and all in need.

## **Membership Launch Special**



Starting March 1, 2022, SS4Kids transitioned to a paid membership platform for each child, offering new songs, features, and resources to the gameplay. Included in our 2022 Launch Special:

- Free 7-day trial
- All 10 existing songs, plus 4 NEW songs
- Training videos (including Spanish version)
- Parent and Caregiver Resources
- Access to our private Facebook Group
- o Informative Monthly Newsletter
- o All previous play data accessible

# **Updates on SS4Kids Website**



Many new features help parents and professionals help their children with speech delays.



#### **About Us**

Learn about who we are, what we do, and why we do what we do. Learn about our team and advisors, our research, our supporters, and view our annual reports.

## **Parents and Caregivers**



In the Parents and Caregivers section we offer information on how our game works, training videos, resources to help you and your child, frequently asked questions and answers, and more.

#### **Clinicians and Teachers**



In the Clinicians and Teachers section of our website we offer information on how our game works, training videos, resources to help you and your child, frequently asked questions and answers, and more.

#### **News & Announcements**



At Sing and Speak 4 Kids, we are always growing and developing, with up-to-date news and announcements.

#### **Stories**



Our stories inspire to keep moving forward with your child. Parents, caregivers, clinicians, and teachers work so hard to help their children that we want a place for them to spotlight what they've accomplished.

#### **Social Media and Communications**

We have many ways for you to receive communications from website to email to social media, we want you to know what's happening with iQsonics and Sing and Speak 4 Kids. Pick what's best for you and begin learning!

## **Training Centers**



Sing and Speak 4 Kids Training Centers were developed to help provide the best guidance we can for our SS4Kids community, and to support parents and professionals become the best activists for their child, student, and client. From training videos to how-to's, PDF downloads to support groups, we've got everyone covered. We also offer a contact form to receive questions and feedback from our community. Click on the training center below that best suits you and get started.

# IAMM Conference



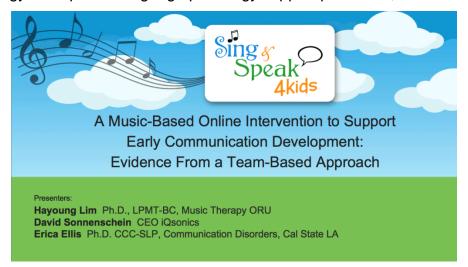
**CEO, David Sonnenschein and Dr. Hayoung Lim virtually** presented "**SING AND SPEAK 4 KIDS:** Online music-based speech-language training" on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the 7th International Conference of **IAMM (International Association for Music & Medicine)** in Athens, Greece, to discuss the benefits of our program, how and why it was created, what is the foundation for this music-based language learning and the results from our clinical trial.

According to Plato, one of the first schools of music education was founded by the people of Crete followed by the musical schools of Athens, where students were taught to sing and play the lyre. The IAMM is a registered non-profit organization formed in 2009 to encourage and support the use of music in medical contexts including research into the benefits of music, and its specialized applications in healthcare.

## **ASHA Convention**



The **ASHA Convention** is one of the largest professional development events for audiologists; speech-language pathologists; and speech, language, and hearing scientists. Bringing together approximately 15,000 attendees, the annual Convention offers more than 2,500 sessions eligible for ASHA continuing education credit covering the latest research, clinical skills, and techniques in communication sciences and disorders. The **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association** (**ASHA**) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language, and hearing scientists, audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel, and students.



Our team introduced *Sing and Speak 4 Kids* to speech-language professionals who can benefit their clients (both children and their parents) with a fun, easy and effective supplement to their practice, and also seek feedback on our program and the professional training we provide. We explained the lessons learned including the dynamics, challenges and successes over 15 years to develop a successful evidence-based online program for integrated professional and in-home facilitation. Our in-program progress tracking, quantitative data graphics, focus group and user feedback, as well as video examples of program usage were presented, along with clinical implementation and implications. Our presentation has become part of the ASHA Learning Pass for continuing education credit for 5 years.

## **CSUN All Abilities Resource Fair**







# Sunday, October 16, 2022

CSUN University Student Union 11:00am-3:00pm

Join us for an in-person resource fair!

# **FREE ADMISSION**

Sing and Speak 4 Kids presented at California's State University, Northridge (CSUN) All Abilities Resource Fair on Sunday, October 16, 2022. This was Los Angeles's largest free Special Needs Resource Fair for families to bring their children, with over 60+ booths at CSUN. Parents, guardians, or caregivers were given the opportunity to explore resources that can greatly benefit their child's needs, with providers all in one place really to save a lot of time for those families.