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Did You Hear That? When What We Hear Influences What We Say

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Did You Hear That? When What We Hear Influences What We Say

Can you remember an instance when you mispronounced a word that you knew how to say? Did you correct yourself right after? The answer is likely yes. While this response is one of second nature, have you ever considered how our mind knows how to make the correction so readily? The answer lies in the relationship between what we hear (auditory feedback) and our brain's monitoring of our speech-related muscle movements (speech motor control). While this relationship is important for language acquisition and exists in adulthood, it is not present at birth. Our research looks to establish how the relationship between speech motor control and auditory feedback develops throughout childhood. Specifically, we will be studying the responses of typically developing children to altered auditory feedback. The findings will inform future research on atypical development and could allow for improvements in the care provided to children with communication disorders.