



Staff photo by Stephen M. Barrett

Kendrick Middle School Speech Therapist Katherine Neufeld conducted a three-year national study on how children with disabilities encode memory.

Speech therapist takes part in study

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Kendrick Middle School's Speech Therapist Katherine Neufeld is taking part in a national research project conducted by the National Institute of Health.

The research project is expected to be unveiled during the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, Nov. 20, said Ms. Neufeld.

Thousands of speech therapists from around the world are

expected to be in attendance, she said.

"I'm excited, and I'm extremely relieved that it's done. Research, however, always leads to other questions," Ms. Neufeld said.

For her part of the project, Ms. Neufeld focused on how children with disabilities, particularly cerebral palsy, encode memory, she said.

"Children with disabilities encode memory differently even though their cognitive abilities are the same," said Ms. Neufeld.

The teacher spent three years

on the project, working with approximately 50 children, she said.

The study was conducted in conjunction with three New Mexico educators, each of whom will contribute his/her own portion to the project, she said.

According to Ms. Neufeld, the research will be used to help children who are unable to speak on their own.

More specifically, it will help to determine which speech communication assistance devices are better for these children, she said.