Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups

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EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

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INTRODUCTION

This Perspectives focused on provision of accurate evaluation of bilingual children, particularly Spanish-English and Chinese-English speaking children. Assessment methods pertaining to vocabulary, semantics, grammar, code switching, and social communication behaviors in culturally and linguistically diverse children were discussed. The articles included: (a) information on how to use formal and informal procedures to assess bilingual children; (b) a case study of how characteristics of Chinese culture might affect interpretation of social communication assessments and; (c) a qualitative description and analysis of how clinicians can use code-switching ability to help differentiate between pragmatic language difference and disorder.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- describe a framework for conducting and interpreting results from a comprehensive, unbiased evaluation that incorporates standardized testing, language samples, and parent and teacher reports
- summarize a culturally sensitive approach to conducting a social communication assessment with a child who is CLD and apply the methods to future assessment in order to analyze the client’s behaviors within the context of their cultural environment
- explain how code-switching behaviors in bilingual children on the autism spectrum can reveal some of their unique social-communicative capacities and challenges