IOWA

Supporting Multilingual Learners and Complexity Approaches to Intervention

ChildServe 2025

Philip Combiths, PhD, CCC-SLP
University of Iowa
Communication Sciences and Disorders

All the resources from this presentation are available here



Hi!

- SLP and Assistant Professor, <u>University of Iowa</u>
- Director, <u>Clinical Linguistics and Disparities Lab</u>
- I am Third-Generation Mexican-American
 But Spanish is <u>not</u> my first language...





Agenda

10:15 - **Break**

Reframe our View of Multilingual Learners

Upgrade your Collaboration with Interpreters

SLPs: Know Your Multilingual Learners

Innovations in Multilingual Assessment

How to Support Home Language in Intervention

How to Use the Complexity Approach for Speech

Create Action Plans

12:00 - Lunch

2:15 - **Break**



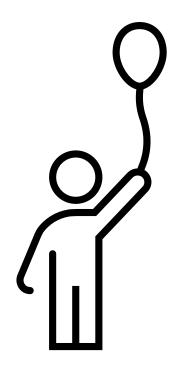
Our Learning Agreement

- Make yourself comfortable. Use this space however you need.
- Lessons leave with you, stories stay here
- We teach and support. No shame and blame.
- You: ask questions anytime Me: license to come back
- Me: Overabundance of slides, may or may not cover them all
- You: Commit to applying two things you learn today



A Different View on Multilingualism

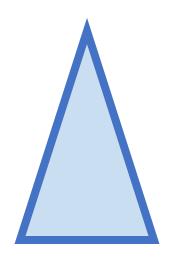
To improve how we support multilingual learners, we need to reframe how we think about multilingualism



Self-Reflection



Monolingual Expectations

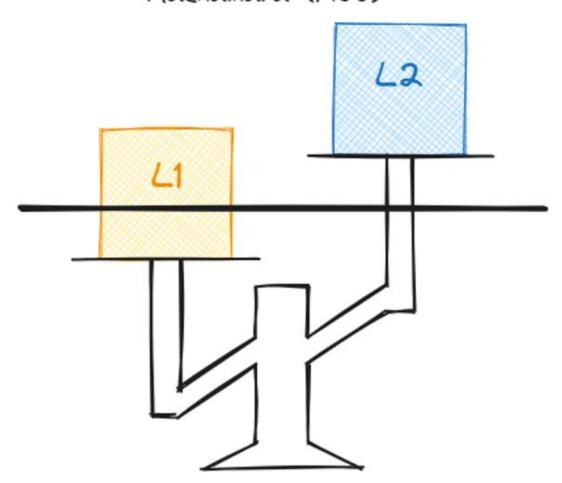




Multilingualism

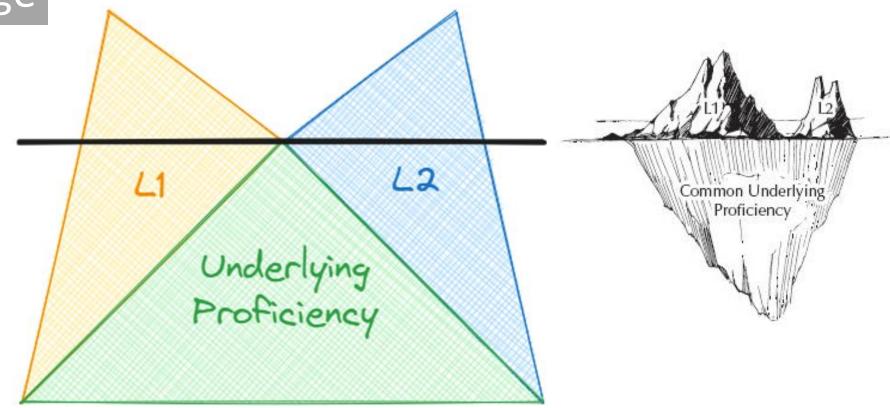


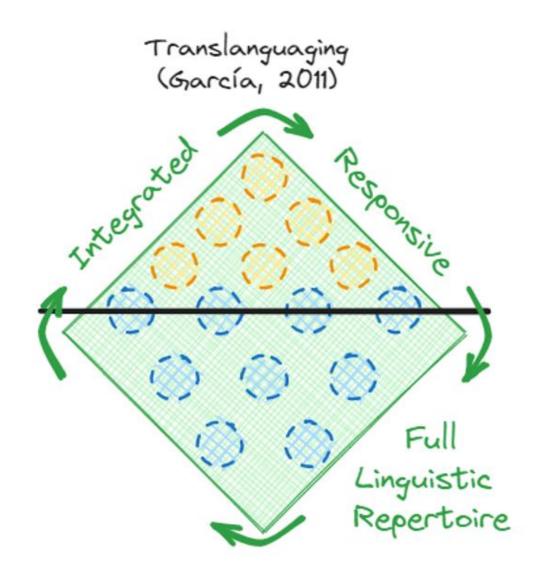
Deficit Model Macnamara (1966)



Big "L" language vs.
Little "l" language

Language Interdependence (Cummins, 1990)



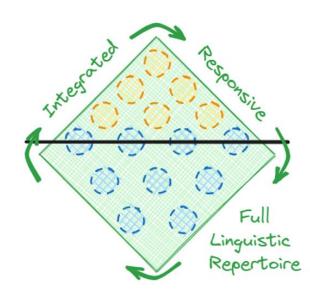


See also: Garivaldo & Fabiano-Smith (2023)

A Different View on Multilingualism

To improve how we support multilingual children, we need to reconsider how we conceptualize multilingualism





Canadian Inuit Language-Culture

- Mothers typically communicate around their babies but not directly to them
- Babies addressed with rhythmic, rhyming talk
- Early vocalizations are not acknowledged
- Children converse with peers, not adults
- Literacy is not emphasized or practiced while young



Pauloosie

Boy, age 8

- Sequential language learner (Inuktitut > English)
- · Isolated Inuit settlement in Northern Quebec, Canada
- Large family, school in Inuktitut until 2nd grade.
 Literate in Inuktitut. Now English in school.
- · Other siblings schooled in French.
- Academic rules different between Inuit and Canadian culture (sharing work, etc.)
- Exposed to new academic and other culture at age 8.



Why support multilingualism?

• Culture, family, community membership, and identity

What is lost when children and parents cannot communicate easily with one another?





Wong-Fillmore (1991); Oh & Fuligni, 2010; Yan (2003); Oh & Fuligni, 2010

Why support multilingualism?

- Culture, family, community membership, and identity
- Language development opportunities

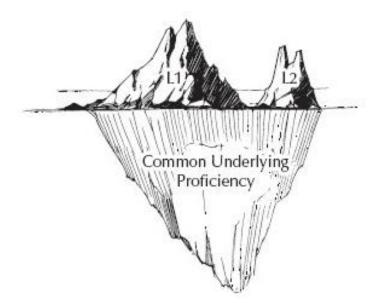




Hammer et al. (2012); Pham & Tipton (2018); Rojas et al. (2016); Sorenson Duncan & Paradis (2020)

Why support multilingualism?

- Family, community membership, and identity
- Language development opportunities
- Strong home language = Stronger school language



Cummins (2000); Gutiérrez-Clellen (1996); Kohnert, Kim, Nett, Kan, & Duran (2005); Castilla, Pérez-Leroux, and Restrepo (2009); Oller & Eilers (2002)

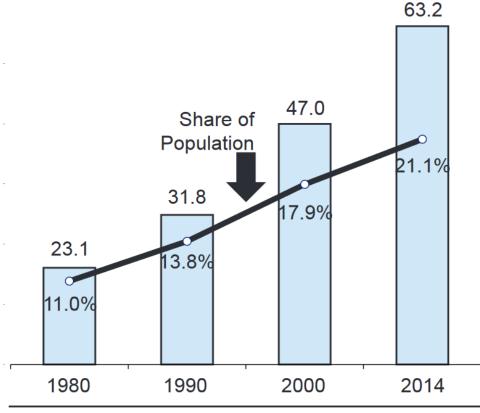
Multilingualism as a necessity

- Navigating a multilingual environment is usually a necessity, not a choice
- We must recognize the value of the home language in
 - forming parent—child relationships
 - establishing family and community connection
 - a child's cultural identity within the family



Changing U.S. Demographics

- More than 350 languages are spoken in homes across the U.S.
- 1 out of every 5 children speaks a language other than English at home

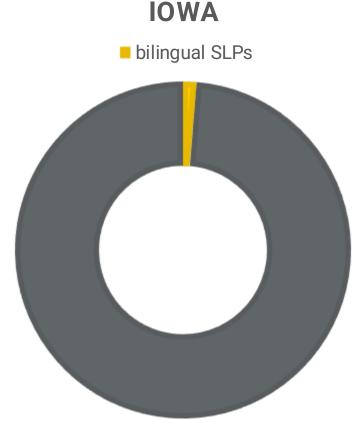


Source: Data for 2000 and 2014 are from <u>American FactFinder</u> for the American Community Survey and 2000 census. Figures for 1990 are from the <u>1990 census</u>. Figures for 1980 are from the <u>1980 census</u>.



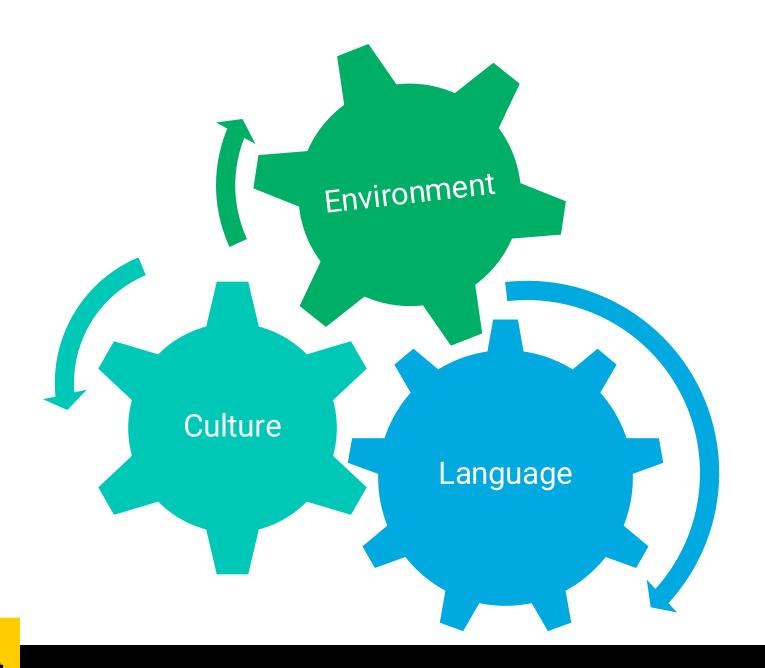
lowa

- 7.7% in Iowa speak a language other than English at home.
- 250% increase in children learning English as a second language since 2000
- 1.3% of SLPs identify as bilingual service providers



ASHA Bilingual Service Providers, Year-End 2017





Reflect and Collaborate

Identify a multilingual learner that you know or support/supported. What is a characteristic of their environment that might affect their communication or participation in session?



Upgrade your Collaboration with Interpreters

Stages of L2 Development in Children

- 1. Home language use
- 2. Nonverbal period Is this a non-communicative stage?
- 3. Formulaic language use
- 4. Semi-productive language use
- 5. Productive language use
 Is there a set amount of time to reach this stage? No
 Is a child perfectly fluent in English at this point? No

```
L1 = Home/Heritage Language
(e.g., Spanish, Arabic, French, etc.)
```

L2 = Second Language (e.g., English)

An Illustration of L2 Development





A Necessity

- For most multilingual learners, a multilingual environment is a necessity, not a choice
- We must recognize the value of the home language in
 - optimal language development
 - forming parent-child relationships
 - establishing family and community connection
 - a child's cultural identity within the family



Factors Affecting Rates of L2 Acquisition

- Motivation, Personality/social interaction
- Age of acquisition
- Similarity/overlap between L1 and L2
 - Similarity/overlap is facilitative
- Quantity/quality/types of L2 exposure



Overview of L1 and L2 Trajectories

- Majority L2 (English) rapidly increases upon onset
- Typically, dominance shifts to English over time
- A Minoritized L1 (Home/Heritage Language) is vulnerable to loss/attrition without continued support
 - Minoritized L1 can continue to develop with family, school, and community support



Anyone Can Support Language

- Create a translanguaging environment
- Be inquisitive about home languages
- Become a cheerleader for culture, communication, and expression

Take actions to ensure language access...



How to Support Families with Interpreters

- Make the time to get to know families. Build trust.
- Acknowledge the additional burden of communicating through and interpreter in a challenging situation for the family
- Goal: Communication as successful as if all parties were using the same language
- Confirm the most appropriate way to ensure language access.



Providing Language Access

- During a conversation prior to a planned initial session, clearly confirm full language access or confirm plan for access
 - Most comfortable language (and dialect) for caregivers
 - All languages (and dialects) in the child's environments
 - Child's preferred or most dominant language

First, I want to confirm the best language environment for our meeting. We will discuss any concerns you have about your child, and your goals for them. What is the most comfortable language for you to have this conversation? It does not have to be English unless that is your preference.

We will also assess your child in all the languages they speak or hear often. What languages should we prepare for?



Working with Interpreters: BID

- Brief prior to the interaction away from everyone
- Interaction during the interaction
- **D**ebrief after the interaction away from everyone

https://youtu.be/6cacw_U_MNk?t=19



Hyter & Salas-Provance (2023) Langdon & Saenz (2015)



How to Brief an Interpreter



SLP IMPACT

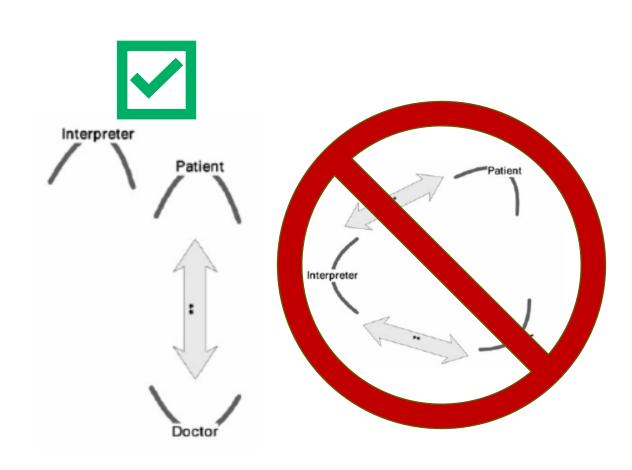
Working with Interpreters: Briefing

- Interpreter is a part of the health care team (Li et al., 2017)
- Explain the purpose of the session, expected outcomes
- Describe participants and relevant session procedures
- Establish your role vs. interpreter's role
 - For assessment/intervention, establish and prepare for any client interaction, data collection or analysis assistance and debriefing
- Discuss dialect and culturally relevant aspects of communication
- Explain jargon/vocabulary you expect to use
- Bonus:
 - Establish controlling pace, such as pauses and sentence length
 - Plan a signal for when there is a misunderstanding during the processes
 - Introduce yourself in the language of the individual. Learn how to pronounce names



Working with Interpreters: Interaction

- Create an optimal setup
- Monitor pace. Chunk in 1-2 sentences.
- Remember: three languages are involved: English, Family Language, Language of your Profession
- Check in frequently for understanding and invite questions
- Speak directly to caregiver or child
- Paralanguage and proxemics





Working with Interpreters: Debriefing

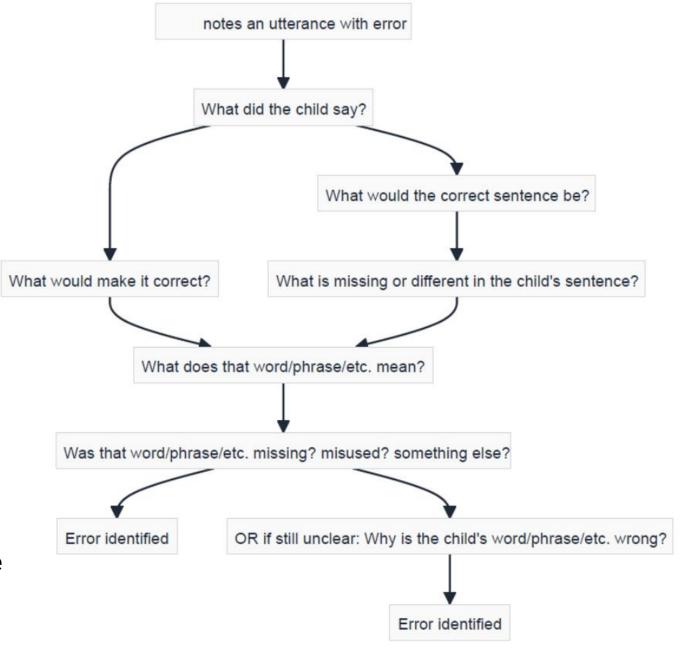
- Ask about culturally relevant aspects of the interaction
- Review notes and discuss child responses
 - The better the prep/briefing, the more useful these notes can be
- Collect or shred any notes made by interpreter
- Later, in any reports, describe how interpreters were used, especially for assessment



Interpreter Debrief

Example: Language Sampling

- Check for language/dialect mismatch
- What did you notice about this child's communication?
- Were there any cultural aspects of communication we could discuss?
- How would you compare the way this child talks to other children of their age in the community?
- Estimated child mean length of utterance in # of words:
- Estimated percent of intelligible utterances:
- Estimated percent of utterances with one or more errors:





Take Action

To provide better language access for my families, I will...



View >> Header and Footer >> Add Unit Name

Up Next

Assessment with Multilingual Learners



Know Your Multilingual Learners

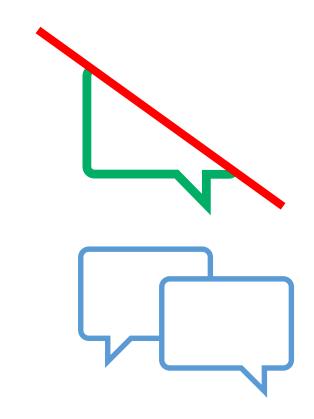
A Guide for SLPs

One Truth One Myth



Best Practice for Bilingual Children

- Bilingual ≠ Language A + Language B!
- Assessment must measure skills in both languages
 - Otherwise, you may not distinguish typical bilingual development form a disorder
- Intervention/treatment must address both languages
 - Strong L1 = Strong L2 development



Cummins, 1991; Gutiérrez-Clellen, 1996, 1999; Kohnert et al., 2005; Yavas & Goldstein, 1998



What Do We Do?

We Address Some Questions:

- What is unique about multilingual language development?
- How can we accurately identify speech or language impairment in multilingual learners?
- How can we provide culturally and linguistically responsive intervention for multilingual learners?



Disorder Within Diversity

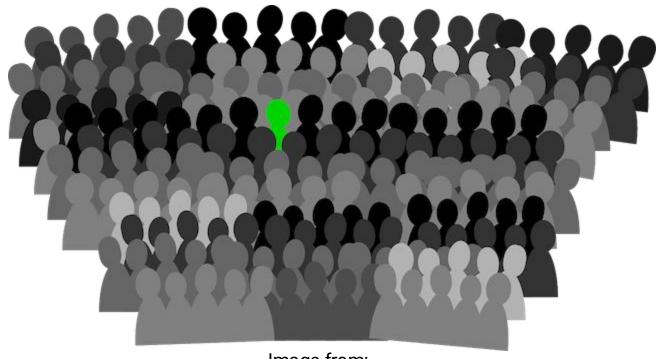
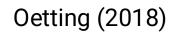


Image from: Anna Mendoza https://annamend.com/



How Does
Language
Work Inside
a Bilingual
Brain?



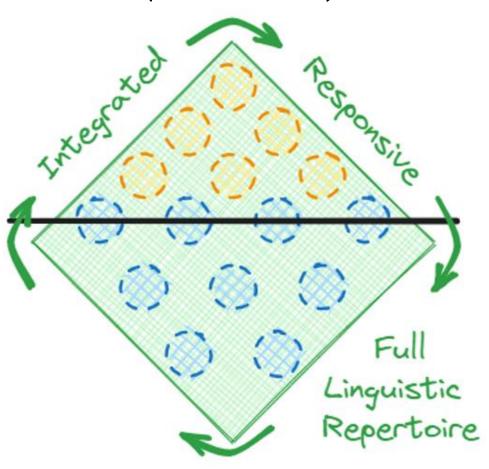
Did You Know?

- When babies are <6 months old, they recognized phonetic differences for sounds of languages around the world!
- Between 6-12 months old, babies specialize to notice only the phonemes of the language(s) they are learning
- For multilingual individuals who have a first language (L1) and a second language (L2) that they begin to acquire later, aspects of the L1 can be used to support development of the L2.

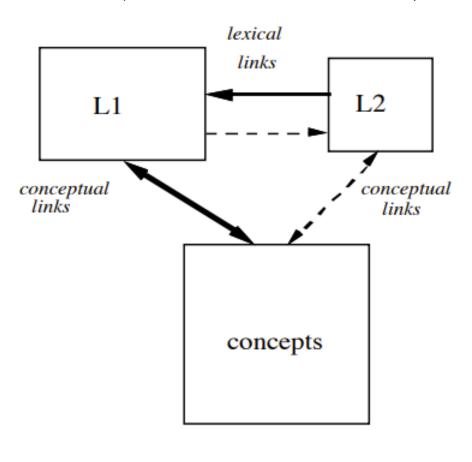




Translanguaging (García, 2011)



Revised Hierarchical Model (Kroll & Stewart, 1994)



Cross-Linguistic Transfer

"I will eat tomorrow chicken nuggets."

Comeré mañana nuggets de pollo



Cross-Linguistic Transfer

The interaction between languages within a multilingual learner's complete language system

What Prompts Transfer?

- Degree of separation in the child's developing languages
- Features and patterns that do or do not overlap across L1 and L2
- Overlapping structures can facilitate L2 acquisition
- Non-overlapping L2 structures must be learned.
 - Until this occurs, the closest available L1 structure may be used instead
- Over time, as L2 proficiency and dominance develops, unique L2 language representations are created, and less transfer occurs



L1 → **L2** Transfer in Development

- Direct transfer of L1 to L2
- Preference for a structure in the L2 that is similar to L1
- Avoidance of an L2 structure that contrasts with L1 structure for the same concept
- L1 transfer is most common at <u>earlier</u> stages of L2 acquisition



Examples from Phonology

Major source of transfer, especially L1 \rightarrow L2

- example: Spanish-English bilinguals and /s/-clusters in English
 - In Spanish, /s/C or /s/CC onset clusters like /sp-/ or /st_J-/ are not permitted
 - In English , /s/C or /s/CC onset clusters are permitted
 - You might note L1-influenced pattern in production of English:
 - "Spanish" /spænɪʃ/ → [espænɪʃ]



Spanish vs. English Phonology



Spanish

nglish

		Labio-			Palato-			
	Bilabial	dental	Dental	Alveolar	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p (b)		t (d)				k (g)	
Fricatives		f		S			x	
Affricates					tſ			
Nasals	m			n		ŋ		
Rhotics				r r				
Approximants	wβ		ð	1		j	Y	
Stops	рb			t d			k g	
Fricatives		f v	θð	s z	∫ 3			
Affricates					र्ष क्ष			
Nasals	m			n			ŋ	
Liquids				1		Ţ		
Glides	W					j		h

Spanish vs. English Phonology

Red =

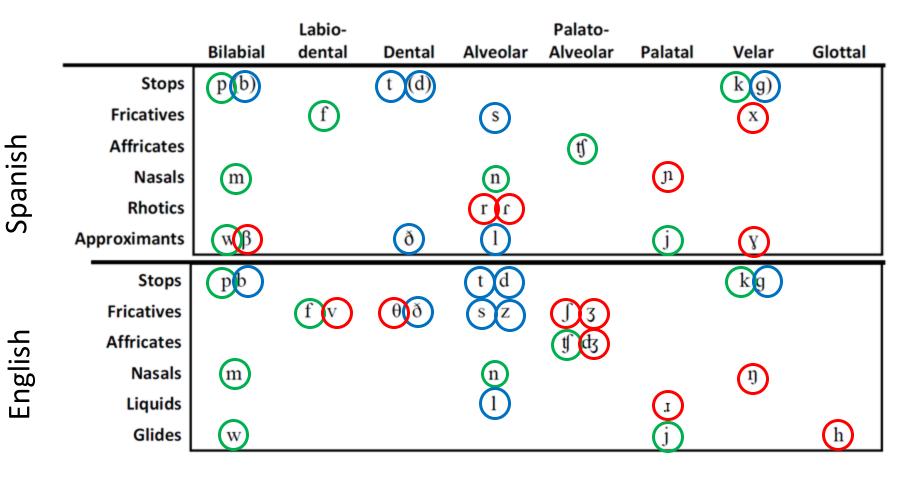
Does not occur in other language

Blue =

Partial overlap

Green =

Overlap





Key Points

- Some language learning benefits may be cumulative.
- Language environments are crucial for understand the complete communication picture for multilingual learners
- Language exposure and dominance change over time and result in differences in language development across two languages.
- Strong home language = optimal outcomes
 - But home language is also the most vulnerable to attrition
 - Children with severe communication disorders can and should grow up multilingual, when that is their environment



Learning Check



Innovations in Multilingual Assessment

Which Multilingual Learner is it Anyway?





Home Language Questionnaire

Child's name: Sex:	Date of birth:	Age of child:
First name of informant:	Relation to child:	
Daycare/Preschool/School:	Grade/Class:	
Age at entry to daycare/preschool/school:_	Number of days attende	ed per week <i>(circle)</i> : 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hours per day at daycare/preschool/school	(circle): 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5	5 5-6 6-7 7-8 9+

In the table below, list all languages your child currently speaks or understands. List in order of dominance.

- Some languages are spoken in many countries or regions. Indicate the country or region of origin for each language.
- ❖ Indicate how well you believe your child uses each language, compared to other children their age.

	Language	Country or region of origin	Your child's use of this language is					
1			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
2			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
3			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
4			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		

In the table below, list the members of the household by their relation to your child.

- Indicate the person's age.
- Indicate the languages the person uses with the child.
- Indicate how frequently the person spends time with the child each week.

Relation to child	Age	Language(s) used with child	How often do they spend time with child?						
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely			

In your child's primary environments, indicate the languages they used or heard for each year of their life.

Ages	es Language(s) Language(s) At Home At School/Daycare			At (fill						
0-1										
1-2										
2-3										
3-4										
4-5										
5-6										
6-7										
7+										
How old	rcentage(s): d was your child was your child have any concer	when they were	e first consisten	tly expose		glish?		Example:	80%	English 20%
How do	es your child exp	press their need	s?	entences	□phra	ises	□one or tw	o words	□sounds	□gestures
Does yo	our child talk like	other kids in y	our community	or in you	r family	of the	same age	?	□Yes	□No
Do you	have any concer	rns about your o	child's speech o	r languag	e?				□Yes	□No
I	If yes, please ex	plain:								
Do you	have any concer	rns about your o	child's health or	developn	nent?				□Yes	□No
I	If yes, please ex	plain:								
Has you	ur child received	speech or langu	uage therapy?						□Yes	□No
т	If yes, please de	scribe when:								

Is there anything else you'd liked us to know about your child?

Which Multilingual Learner is it Anyway?





Principles of Assessment

- Acknowledge the child as an individual with an identity; learn from the child and their family
- Consider the impact of the child's unique cultural and linguistic profile on their communication
- Understand and document the child's multilingual language environment
- Assess each of the child's languages (yes you can do this!)
- Evaluate results according to the child's multilingual language development (i.e., not monolingual norms)
- Distinguish typical multilingual development from multilingual development in the context of a disorder



Language-Culture

- When someone learns a language, they also learn a system of customs, values, ways of thinking, feeling, and acting:
 - AKA Culture
- There is a <u>bidirectional relationship</u> between language and culture
- A multilingual child is a multicultural child



Culture and Language Resources



Collect a multilingual language profile

Part of intake or case history

Meeting with Caregivers

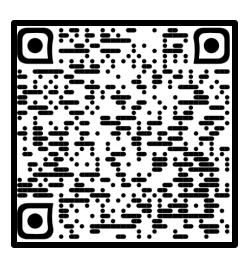
- Provide language access. Whenever possible, use the language that is the most comfortable for the family
 - "We will be talking about X, Y, Z. What language would be most comfortable for us to talk about these topics?"
- Check in with and prepare interpreters when possible
- Parental report is a tremendously valuable diagnostic indicator for multilingual learners

Are you concerned about your child's speech or language? How does your child's language compare to other children of their age in your community? **OR** to an older sibling at their age?



Surveys and Questionnaires

- Alberta Language Development/Environment Questionnaire (ALDeQ/ALEQ)
- Language Experience and Proficiency Questionnaire LEAP-Q
- Intelligibility in Context Scale (McLeod, Harrison, & McCormack (2012)
- Home Language Questionnaire
- Bilingual Input-Output Survey (BIOS) and ITALK of Bilingual English-Spanish Assessment (BESA)





Child's name:	Sex:	Date	e of birt	h:			Ag	ge of chi	ld:				
First name of informant:		Rela	tion to	child:_									_
Daycare/Preschool/School:		Grad	de/Clas	s:									
Age at entry to daycare/preschool	/school:	Nun	nber of	days at	tended	per we	ek <i>(circ</i>	:le): 1	2 3	4	5	6	-
Hours per day at daycare/prescho	ol/school (circle):	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5–6	6-7	7-8	9+				

In the table below, list all languages your child currently speaks or understands. List in order of dominance.

- Some languages are spoken in many countries or regions. Indicate the country or region of origin for each language.
- ❖ Indicate how well you believe your child uses each language, compared to other children their age.

	Language	Country or region of origin	Your child's use of this language is.					
1			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
2			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
3			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		
4			□Very Good	□Good	□Fair	□Poor		

In the table below, list the members of the household by their relation to your child.

- Indicate the person's age.
- Indicate the languages the person uses with the child.
- Indicate how frequently the person spends time with the child each week.

Relation to child	Age	Language(s) used with child	How often do they spend time with child					
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		
			□Always	□Often	□Sometimes	□Rarely		

Use standardized <u>and</u> performancebased tools to obtain a comprehensive view of abilities in both languages

Norms and Multilingual Children

- Most information for English is based on English monolinguals
 - We know that bilingual children (especially those in an earlier stage of English acquisition) have a different rate of English speech-language acquisition
 - We know that transfer from the child's L1 can impact their productions in English (L2)—and this is not a cause for concern
- Acquisition times vary across languages
 - Just because a phoneme or language feature occurs in English and the child's L2 doesn't mean that will be acquired at the same time across both languages



Assessment Planning: Standardized Tools

- Consider criterion-referenced rather than norm-referenced tools
- Confirm the norming/reference sample or see existing test reviews (see resources for these!)
 - Report norms that are valid for bilingual children of a similar profile
 - Consider alternative or local norm referencing: See an <u>alternate norm</u> referencing calculator here
- Determine if modification would reduce bias
 - Report all modifications of standardized procedures
 - Use a variety of elicitation procedures
- Code switching or transfer patterns should not be treated as errors





Assessment Planning: Non-Standardized

Use **performance-based**, and **caregiver/teacher report** tools to obtain a comprehensive view of language ability

- Use structured parent report to obtain information about language ability in the home language
 - Intelligibility in Context Scale, ALDeQ, MCDI, Rosetti, ITALK (BESA), etc.
- Include elicited speech probes, in both languages
- Include language sampling, in both languages
- Include dynamic assessment



Assessment Tools for Bilingual Children

- Use existing assessment tools <u>appropriately</u>
 - Many existing assessments will require modification in their content, administration, and interpretation of results
 - Any single test will need to be accompanied by supplemental measures (Dollaghan & Horner, 2011)

Important Measures:

- Caregiver/parent report measures
- Language sample measures
- Dynamic assessment



Broader Measures Across Contexts

Every measure is only an estimate of language

Granularity of measurement should reflect the precision of the access you have to a given language construct



الأسئلة التالية تتعلق بمدى فهم كلام طفلك من قبل مختلف الأشخاص. الرجاء أن تفكر في كلام طفلك خلال الشهر الماضي عندما تجيب على كل سؤال. ضع دائرة حول أحد الأرقام لكل سؤال

(The following questions are about how much of your child's speech is understood by different people. Please think about your child's speech over the past month when answering each question. Circle one number for each question.)

	دائماً	عادةً	بعض الأحيان	نادرا	أبدا
	(Always)	(Usually)	(Sometimes)	(Rarely)	(Never)
1. هل تفهم طفلك؟¹ (Do you understand your child¹?)	5	4	3	2	1
2 هل يفهم أفراد أسرتك المباشرون طفلك؟ (Do immediate members of your family understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
3. هل يفهم أفراد أسرتك غير المباشرون طفلك؟ (Do extended members of your family understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
4. هل يَفهمُ أصدقاءُ طفاك كلام طفاك؟ (Do your child's friends understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
5. هل يَفهمُ المعارف الأخرون طفاك؟ (Do other acquaintances understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
6. هل يَفهمُ أستاذة طفلك كلام طفلك؟ (Do your child's teachers understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
7 هل يَفهمُ الغرباء ² طفلك؟ (Do strangers² understand your child?)	5	4	3	2	1
= (TOTAL SCORE) الدرجة الكلية	/35				
= (AVERAGE TOTAL SCORE) معدل الدرجة الكلية	/5				



Access ICS Here

		Нарру	In the middle	Sad	Another feeling	Don't know
Con cảm thấy thế nào về cách con nói?	How do you feel about the way you talk?	\odot			O	?
Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con nói với người bạn thân nhất của mình?	How do you feel when you talk to your best friend?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
 Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con nói với anh chị em của mình? 	3. How do you feel when you talk to your [brothers and sisters]?	\odot	<u> </u>	(3)	O	?
4. Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con nói với bố mẹ con?	4. How do you feel when you talk to your [mother and father]?	\odot	<u></u>	8	O	?
 Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con nói với các thầy cô giáo ở trường [mẫu giáo] của con? 	5. How do you feel when you talk to your [pre]school teachers?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
6. Con cảm thấy thế nào khi thầy cô giáo đặt câu hỏi cho con?	6. How do you feel when your teachers ask you a question?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
7. Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con nói trước lớp?	7. How do you feel when you talk to the whole class?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
 Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con chơi với các bạn ở trường [mẫu giáo]? 	How do you feel when you play with the children at [pre]school?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
TổNG ĐIỂM © =	TOTAL © SCORE =	/8				
9. Con cảm thấy thế nào khi con chơi một mình?	9. How do you feel when you play on your own?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?
10. Con cảm thấy thế nào khi mọi người không hiểu con nói gì?	10. How do you feel when people don't understand what you say?	\odot	<u></u>	(3)	O	?



Access the Speech
Participation and
Activity Assessment
of Children
(SPAA-C)

Best Practice: Parent Report

• MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (CDI; Fenson et al., 2007)

https://mb-cdi.stanford.edu/adaptations.html

- Inventory to Assess Language Knowledge (BESA; Peña et al., 2018)
- Intelligibility in Context Scale (McLeod et al., 2012)
 http://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/ics
- Alberta Language Development/Environment Questionnaire

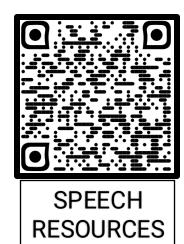
(ALDeQ/ALEQ; Paradis et al., 2010)

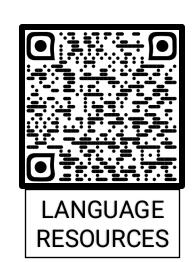
https://www.ualberta.ca/linguistics/cheslcentre/questionnaires



Best Practice: Non-English Assessment

- Collaborate with a language-cultural broker, interpreter, community or family member
 - Get reported information from caregivers
 - Get broad measures or estimates of broad measures:
 - whole word measures and sentence measures, intelligibility, utterance length, grammatical and pragmatic errors
- Speech-sound probes available in multiple languages
 - https://cld.lab.uiowa.edu/multilingual-speech-assessment-resources
- Language sample elicitation audio in Spanish and English
 - https://cld.lab.uiowa.edu/multilingual-language-assessment-resources

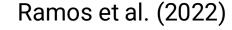






Best Practice: Language Sample Analysis

- Measures are preferable to those provided by standardized tests
 - Broad language sample measures are less likely to be influenced by language transfer patterns. Samples can be **shorter**.
 - Mean Length of Utterance (MLU) in Words
 - Percent Grammatical Utterances
 - Number of Different Words (NDW)
 - Intelligibility





Best Practice: Language Sample Analysis



Multilingual Assessment Instrument for Narratives (MAIN)



- Assesses narrative skills in children acquiring one or more languages from es preschool to school age.
- Components: Four parallel stories with sixpicture sequences.
- Available in 92 languages, used in over 60 countries
- Stories designed for cognitive and linguistic complexity, cultural relevance.
- It's free

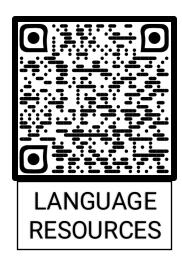


https://main.leibniz-zas.de/



Best Practice: Dynamic Assessment

- Assess a child's modifiability with a language assessment or task
 - modifiability = how much a child is able to learn and improve after focused, adaptive instruction in a task or skill
 - test \rightarrow teach \rightarrow re-test
- Typically developing children demonstrate greater modifiability than children with language impairment (Gutiérrez-Clellen & Peña, 2008)



Interpreting Multilingual Data

- Compare multilingual speech and language to that of other children with a similar profile, rather than to monolinguals
- Consider rate and amount of L2 development to inform speech and language development expectations
- Speech or language disorder will be <u>apparent in all language</u> <u>systems</u>, not just one
- Interpreters, proficient speakers, acquired comparisons (e.g., samples of parents, siblings or peers) can assist in interpretation



Evaluating Multilingual Language

Typical Multilingual Development

- Expectations for each language may differ based on:
 - Age of acquisition, exposure, dominance, social/environmental/schooling context
 - Cannot expect L2 proficiency when L2 is in early state of acquisition...
- Developmental patterns
 - Remember: these account for **most** of the patterns
- Transfer patterns
 - Remember: these may account for some of the patterns

A language disorder means difficulty with language <u>cannot be</u> <u>explained by these</u> <u>factors alone</u>



More Resources

Culture

- Country and Culture Guides
- Culture Crossing Guide
- https://www.thatsunheardof.org/

Standardized Tests

- Test reviews
- Alternative norm referencing calculator

More (From LEADERS Project)

- Nonword Repetition
- School-Age Language Measures
- Sample evaluations



All these resources and more posted here



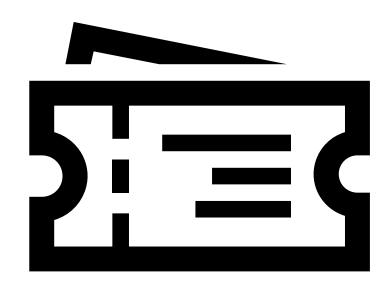


Consider

An assessment you conducted with a multilingual learner.

What is one thing you could reasonably adjust to make that assessment more reflective of their complete language system?

Exit Ticket



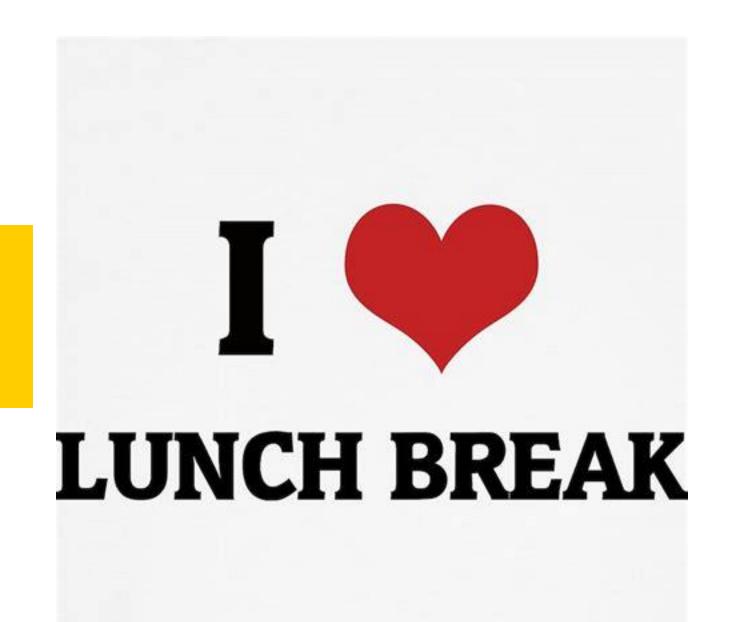
Post or like one question, tool, or topic, you'd like to learn more about





Up Next

Intervention with Multilingual Learners



Welcome Back!

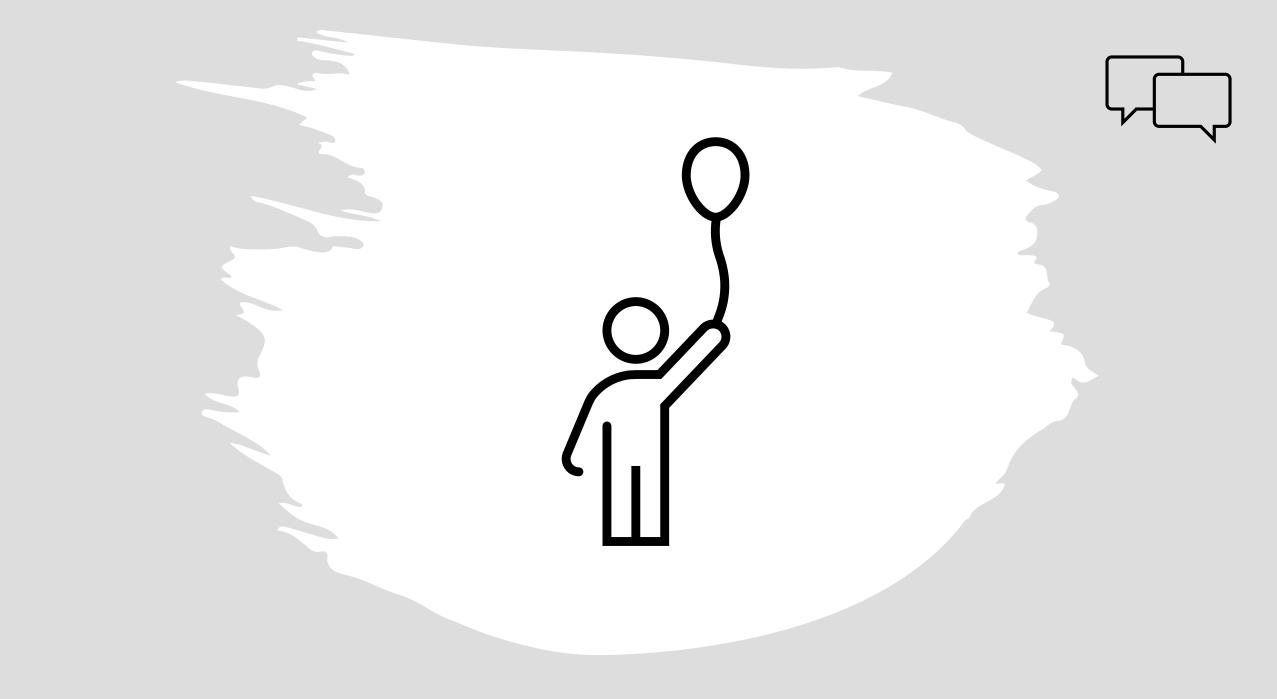
Post or like one question, tool, or topic, you'd like to learn more about





Intervention with Multilingual Learners





Principles of Intervention

- 1. Identify communication needs in the child's different languages and communication contexts
- 2. Choose appropriate treatment goals and targets to address each of their language contexts
- 3. Create an intervention and intervention environment plan
- 4. Monitor progress across languages and contexts and change your plan accordingly



Selecting Intervention Targets

- 1. Consider and identify targets:
 - -Language-specific skills (L1 & English)
 - Overlapping language skills (English)
 - -Language-general skills (English)
 - -Targets that may induce changes across their complete language system (English)
- 2. Consider available resources for models of L1 targets
- 3. Consider available allies for L1 support goals



Generalization of Skills

Consider **generalization** or **transfer** across languages

- $-L1 \rightarrow L2$ is more likely than $L2 \rightarrow L1$
- Literacy and narrative macro-structure skills are more likely to generalize across languages
- Non-language-specific skills are more likely to generalize across languages
- Overlapping features may be more likely to generalize across languages
- More complex areas of language may be more likely to affect the entire language system



Examples of Shared L1/L2 Targets

English/Spanish Targets

- Tense as a construct
- Cognates
- Plural /s/ morphemes
- Subject pronouns



Examples of Separate L1 and L2 Targets

Spanish Targets

- Gender (la niña / el niño)
- Plural agreement between articles, nouns, and adjectives (las manzanas rojas)
- Number and tense verb agreement (los niños escucharon)
- Clitics (lo, los, le, les, la, las)

English Targets

- Past tense –ed morpheme (the boy walked home)
- Direct and indirect object pronouns (he/him, she/her)



An Spanish-English Bilingual Kindergartner

- Intelligibility issues in both languages
- Limited cluster inventories
- Targeted /fl-/ in both languages
 - Targeted /fl-/ in English, incidental inclusion of Spanish
- Met with parent
 - Taught recasts
 - Taught easy games, like memory
- /fl-/ accurate in Spanish first
- Added singletons and clusters in both languages



Jorge

- Age 7;4
- Spanish-English bilingual
- Identified challenges in:
 - Learning rate
 - Intelligibility
 - Expressive language and morphosyntax

Jorge was raised and continues to live in a Spanish-English bilingual home. His parents are Spanish-dominant, and he has six siblings who speak Spanish and English at home. Per parent report, Jorge uses Spanish and English nearly equally at home (58% input and output in Spanish). At his bilingual school, Jorge also uses both English and Spanish.





Separate Goals

Jorge will produce complex embedded causal phrases in untrained sentences with 80% accuracy in a 10-item sentence repetition task **in English**.

"He went to the store to get milk."

"I like school because I get to see friends."

Jorge will produce verbs in untrained sentences with present subjunctive inflection with 80% accuracy in a 10-item sentence repetition task in **Spanish**.

"Espero que nieva mañana." (I hope it snows tomorrow)

"Dudo que llegue a tiempo." (I doubt he'll make it on time)



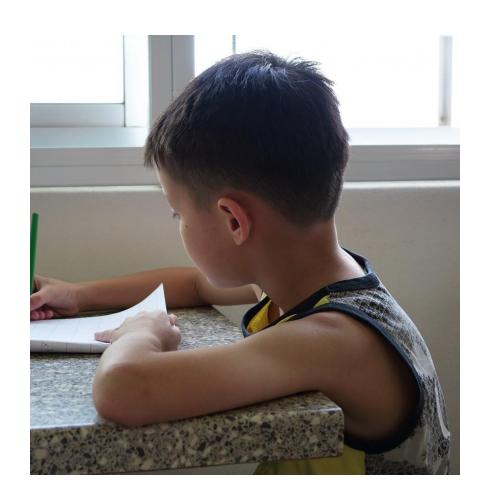
A Shared Goal

Jorge will independently produce a narrative from a picture prompt with five narrative macro-structure components (Setting, Initiating Event, Internal Response, Conflict, Attempt, Resolution/Ending) and at least three higher-level narrative components (e.g., transitions, character motivations, character self-reflection) in English **or** Spanish



Sam

- 6 year old dual language learner in an elementary school
- Parents immigrated from China before Sam was born
- Reportedly, English and Mandarin Chinese are spoken at home
- Teacher reported concerns with Sam's intelligibility





1

Consider and investigate
the impact of Sam's
unique cultural and
linguistic profile on their
communication

Chinese/Mandarin Language-Culture

- Less direct communication (e.g., euphemistic)
- Power distance is high (and highly respected)
- Disability and mental health are often associated with shame, especially toward the parents

From Burk, Coleman, Wimberly, & Zapata (2008)





Tonal language No consonant clusters

Limited word-final consonants: /n/ and /ŋ/

English phonemes not found in Mandarin:

/v/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /ʧ/ /ʤ/, /θ/, /ð/



MANDARIN PHONEMIC INVENTORY¹

Please remember that dialectal differences exist for each language and should be considered when using the phonemic charts.

	Bilabial		Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar		Alveopalatal	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar		Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	р	p^h			t	t ^h					k	k ^h		
Nasal		m				n						ŋ		
Trill														
Tap or Flap														
Fricative			f		s		è		ş		x			
Affricate					ts	ts ^h	tç tç ^h		tş tş ^h					
Glides (Approximant)									4					
Liquid (Lateral Approximant)						I								



¹ Chart based on information gathered from the following:

Cheng, L. (1991). Assessing Asian language performance: Guidelines for evaluating limited-English proficient students (2nd ed.). Oceanside, CA: Academic Communication Associates.

Fang, X., & Ping-an, H. (1992). Articulation disorders among speakers of Mandarin Chinese. American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 1(4), 15–16.



2

Describe the dimensions of Sam's multilingualism

Sam: Cultural-Linguistic Profile



- Parent report / questionnaire
 - Parents are "somewhat proficient" in English
 - No siblings, interacts mostly with parents at home
 - -Birth 3 years: 90% Mandarin / 10% English exposure at home
 - -3 5 years: 40% Mandarin / 60% English in bilingual pre-school
 - 5 6 years: 100% English at school, 50/50 English and Mandarin at home
 - Parents report: "trying to use more English at home to help with his schooling"



Sam: Cultural-Linguistic Profile



- Substantial English exposure beginning at age 3
- Several years of academic English exposure
- Diminishing Mandarin exposure
 - Susceptible to first language (L1) attrition?
- Mandarin and English proficiency could both be moderate-tohigh but requires further investigation





3

Assess both of Sam's languages

Sam: Assessment



Mandarin Assessment

- Mandarin speech-sound probe
- Play/conversation sample
- Parent intelligibility questionnaire

English Assessment

- English speech-sound probe
- Play/conversation sample
- Teacher intelligibility questionnaire



4

Evaluate results according to **his** multilingual language development

Sam: Assessment Results



Mandarin Results

- No consonant clusters
- Limited final consonants
- PCC: 80%
- Missing phonemes:

/ʦ, ʦ^h, չ, չ, k^h/

English Results

- Consonant clusters: [tw]
- Final consonants: [n, ŋ, t, p, k]
- PCC: 65%
- Missing phonemes:

/θ, ð, v, l, ı, z, ʤ, ∫, ʒ/

Sam: Assessment Results



Mandarin Results

- No consonant clusters
- Limited final consonants
- PCC: 80%
- Missing phonemes:

/ʦ, ʦ^h, ɹ, ʂ, k^h/

English Results

- Consonant clusters: /tw/
- Final consonants: /n, ŋ, t, p, k/
- PCC: 65%
- Missing phonemes:

/θ, ð, v, l, ı, z, ʤ, ∫, ʒ/

Sam: Assessment Results



Mandarin Results

- No consonant clusters
- Limited final consonants
- PCC: 80%
- Missing phonemes:

/ʦ, ʦ^h, 扣, Ṣ, k^h/

English Results

- Consonant clusters: /tw/
- Final consonants: /n, ŋ, t, p, k/
- PCC: 65%
- Missing phonemes:

/θ, ð, v, l, ı, z, ʤ, ∫, ʒ/



5

Distinguish typical multilingual development from multilingual development in the context of a disorder

Speech Sound Disorder Within Multilingualism

- Significant phonological delay/errors were identified not attributable to Sam's status as a multilingual learner
 - Significant errors were identified in **both languages**
 - Sam has had strong English exposure for three years
 - Transfer patterns should account for only a small portion of his English errors, if any
 - Identified errors not attributable to multilingual influence/transfer alone





Consider

Your multilingual learner.

How could you support their home language...

In an English session	With an Interpreter	With the Family		

Up Next

Complexity Approach



Success Stories

What are your success stories for helping kids with speech?

An approach you've used
An activity, cue, or strategy
An example of great client progress

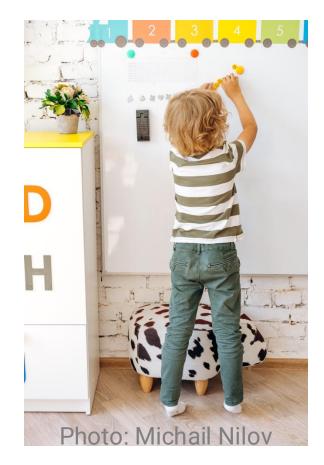


Jack

- Age 5;2
- Talkative and great sense of humor
- No previous treatment
- Did not attend preschool
- Group treatment 2/week



October 2016

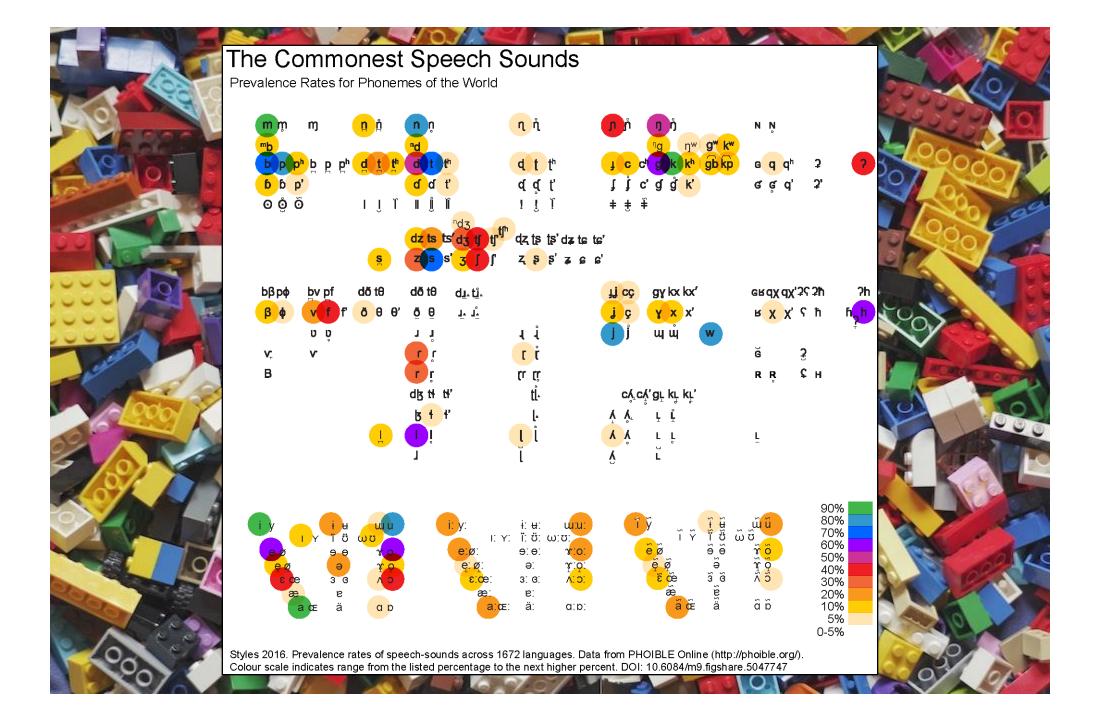


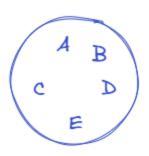


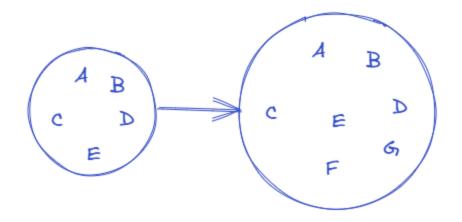
June 2017

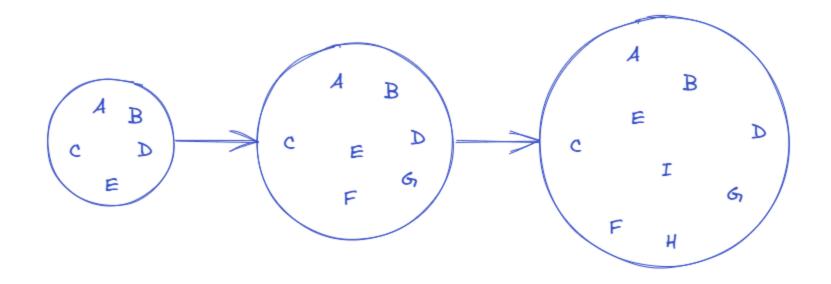








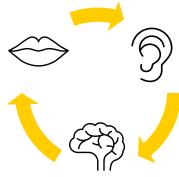














Speech Sound and Phonological Disorders

Phonological disorder is the most common form of speech sound disorder (SSD)

Mean referral age for SSDs (in US): 4 years; 3 months

Mean speech normalization for SSDs (in US): 8 years; 6 months

Baker & McLeod (2011), Baker et al. (2018), Black et al. (2015), Hoffman et al. (1990), Law et al. (2000, 2003, 2004), Mullen & Schooling (2010), Powell et al. (1998), Shriberg et al. (1999), Sommers (1992), Tyler et al. (1987), Ward & Bankson (1989), Weston & Bain (2003), Wren et al. (2016, 2018)

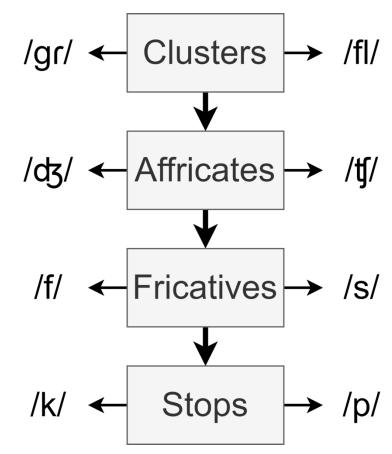


Efficient Treatment Targets

Teach complex phonology

Greater **complexity** of the treatment target can stimulate system-wide phonological growth





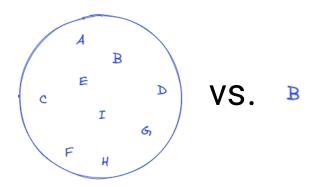
Allen (2013); Cummings et al. (2019; 2020), Elbert et al. (1984), Gierut (1990, 1998, 1999), Gierut et al. (1994, 1996), Gierut & Champion (2001), Gierut & Morrisette (2012), Gierut & O'Connor (2002), Dinnsen et al. (1990), Dinnsen & Elbert (1984), cf. Rvachew & Bernhardt (2010)



Target the System, Not the Sound

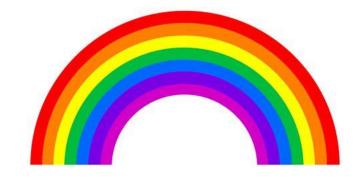
Greater **complexity** of the treatment target can stimulate system-wide phonological growth

Decisions about treatment targets (i.e., goals) impact the efficiency of treatment



Allen (2013); Cummings et al. (2019; 2020), Elbert et al. (1984), Gierut (1990, 1998, 1999), Gierut et al. (1994, 1996), Gierut & Champion (2001), Gierut & Morrisette (2012), Gierut & O'Connor (2002), Dinnsen et al. (1990), Dinnsen & Elbert (1984), cf. Rvachew & Bernhardt (2010)





But you don't have to take my word for it

Research in Schools: Complex Clusters

- Age range = 3;2 6;8
- 24 boys, 8 girls
- 7 with co-occurring LI
- 4 bilingual (Spanish-English)







Group Results: PCC-R Percent Consonants Correct-Revised

Calculation:

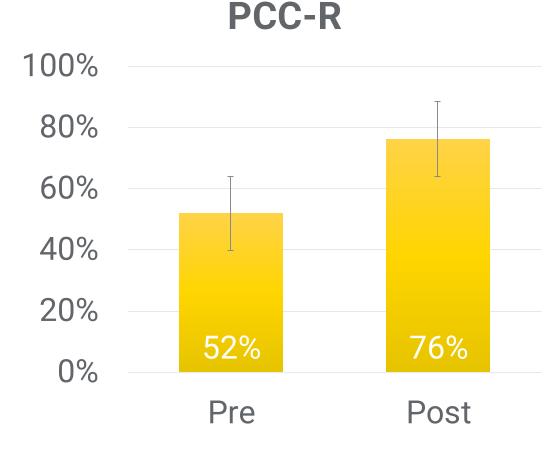
correct C / (# correct + incorrect C) x 100

Example:

'splash' /splæ $[/ \rightarrow [pæ]]$ 2/4 = 50% 'wagon' /wægən/ $\rightarrow [wædən]$ 2/3 = 67%

Average improvement: 24%

a large effect, per Gierut et al. 2015 (range: 3%-50%)



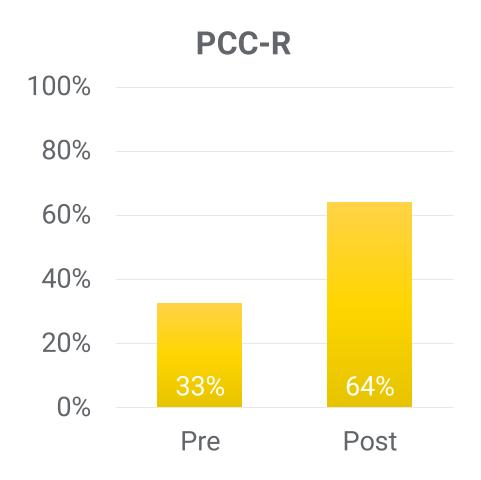


Case Study: Oliver

- Age 5;10
- Kind and sociable
- 2 years previous treatment (inconsistent)
- Family history of learning disabilities
- Concomitant LI
- Group treatment: 3x/week for 30 minutes
- Treatment targets: Consonant Clusters



Oliver: PCC-R





Oliver: Phonetic and Cluster Inventories

Pretreatment: Phonetic inventory pb td m W **Pretreatment: Cluster inventory** pl-

Posttreatment: Phonetic inventory

```
pb td k?
fv sz∫
tsdz
m n ŋ
I J
w j h
```

Posttreatment: Cluster inventory



Target	9/15/14	1/8/15	6/1/15		
snake	neis	sneit	sneik		
slug	hΛ	SWΛ	slnd		
dragon	dæhɪs̪	dæzɪn	dæzɪn		
flag	hæs	flæd	flæd		
crayons	tæs	tæn	tjænz		
glue	du:	du	dju		
glasses	dæhɪz	dæsız	dæsız		
square	teoʊ	teoʊ	tεοʊ		
french fries	far har	fwεnt fwaι	fwent fwaiz		
shredded	wεhī	∫εdīd	∫εdīd		
pretzel	pɛtə	pwetze	pjɛtzəl		
swing	win	swiŋ	swĩn		
splashing	pæhɪn	pæſɪŋ	splæsin		
swimming	hīmi	simin	simin		

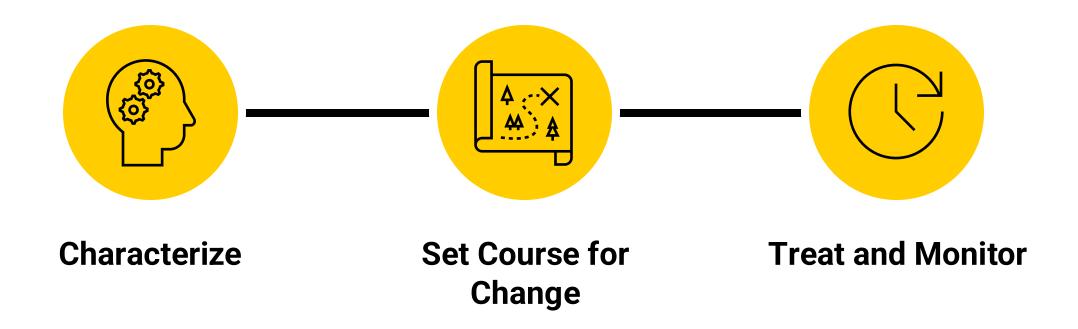
To Summarize...

Treatment on complex clusters is effective for:

- causing widespread change in children's sound systems
- school-based services
- group settings
- children with diverse needs and severities of involvement
- multilingual learners



Three Steps to Speech Intervention



Characterize

- In phonology and articulation, what are the student's:
 - areas of strength?
 - room for growth?
 - functional needs?

What are the student's characteristics in other areas?

Characterize

- 1. Collect a speech sample
- 2. Characterize the speech system
 - Phonetic/phonemic inventories
 - Word position information: onsets, codas, clusters
 - Accuracy and intelligibility
 - Stimulability



Tools to Help

Assessment: Independent probes available online

- Clusters Probe (McLeod & Hand, 1991)
- Little PEEP (Barlow, 2012)
- In-Depth Phonological Assessment (Taps Richard, 2012)
- EFE [Spanish Probe] (Barlow & Combiths, 2021)

Intervention: Consonant Clusters

- Numerous cluster resources (Taps Richard, 2007-2017): http://slpath.com/
- Clusters worksheets (Bowen, n.d.): https://www.speech-language-therapy.com/
- Clusters activities (Carl, n.d.): http://www.carlscorner.us.com/BlendsBonanza.htm



PATT 2.0: Phonological Assessment and Treatment Targets

- Step-by-step guidelines for treatment target selection (originally adapted from Gierut, 2004; Morrisette, Farris, & Gierut, 2006)
- Overview of approach:
 - Identify gaps in phonological knowledge
 - Target 3-element clusters
 - If not feasible, target complex 2-element clusters
 - Otherwise, teach complex phonemes in cluster and singleton contexts

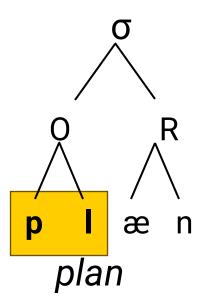


- Target more complex phonology to increase the complexity of the speech system
 - -3-element CCC > 2-element CC > later-acquired > earlier-acquired
 - $-/spl-/ > /pl-/ > /tw-/ > /\theta/ > /f/ > /b/$
- Target gaps in phonological knowledge
 - Not in inventory, low accuracy, non-stimulable

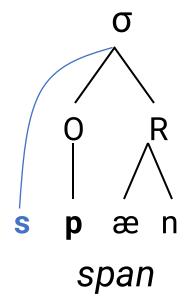


3-element CCC if the child has phoneme knowledge of C2 and C3

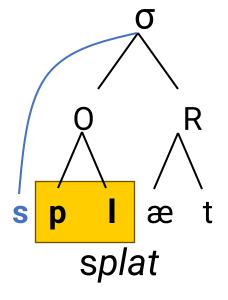
/pl-/ in English



/sp-/ in English



/spl-/ in English





- Or else, 2-element CC if absent from inventory
- Gray shaded clusters may not generalize as much (avoid these)

SD=6	SD=5	SD=4	SD=3	SD=2	SD=-2	
tw- kw- pj- kj-	bj- pr- tr- kr- pl- kl-	br- dr- gr- bl- gl- fj- sw-	fr- θr- ∫r- fl- sl- vj-	mj- sm- sn-	sp- st- sk-	



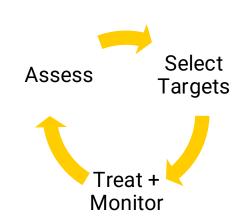
Or else, a relatively complex singleton C if absent from inventory

		Labio-	Inter-		Palato-			
	Bilabial	dental	dental	Alveolar	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	рb			t d			k g	
Fricatives		f v	θð	s z	\int 3			
Affricates					्र पुर			
Nasals	m			n			ŋ	
Liquids				1		r		
Glides	W					j		h



What's Next?

- Monitor progress
 - Frequent monitoring of target productions
 - Weekly/biweekly
 - Periodic monitoring of system-wide generalization
 - e.g., monitored/missing/late-acquired consonants or clusters
 - Quarterly/biannually or when target is mastered
- After treatment, repeat process:
 - determine phonetic, phonemic, and cluster inventories
 - determine whether clusters or singletons are appropriate targets
 - -etc.



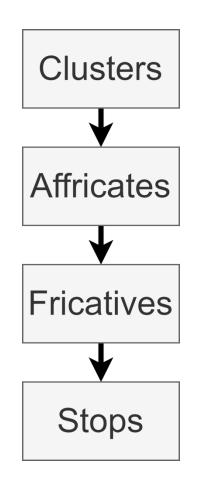


But Wait, There's More!

Supporting the Whole [L]anguage System

System-wide change in a multilingual learner means **system-wide** (across their languages)







Allen (2013); Cummings et al. (2019; 2020), Elbert et al. (1984), Gierut (1990, 1998, 1999), Gierut et al. (1994, 1996), Gierut & Champion (2001), Gierut & Morrisette (2012), Gierut & O'Connor (2002), Dinnsen et al. (1990), Dinnsen & Elbert (1984), Combiths et al. (2021, 2023)

Participants

N = 6 / Ages 4;1-6;6

Phonological disorder

L1 Mexican Spanish speakers in the US

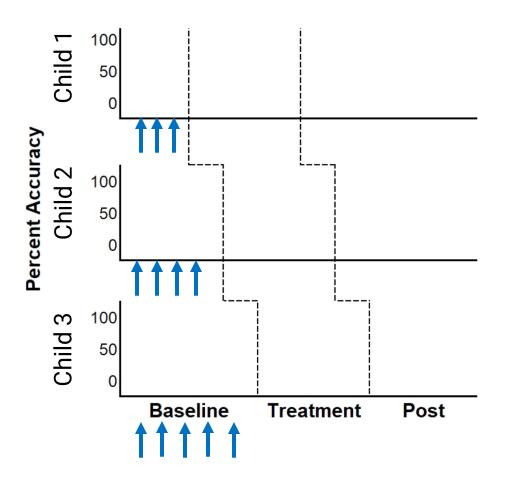








Multiple Baseline Single Case Experimental Design





Treatment Protocol

Treatment Targets:

/br/, /gr/, /tr/, /l/

6 treatment words

Treatment Activities:

Drill, play, and story-based

Imitation and spontaneous production





A Clinical Perspective

Key

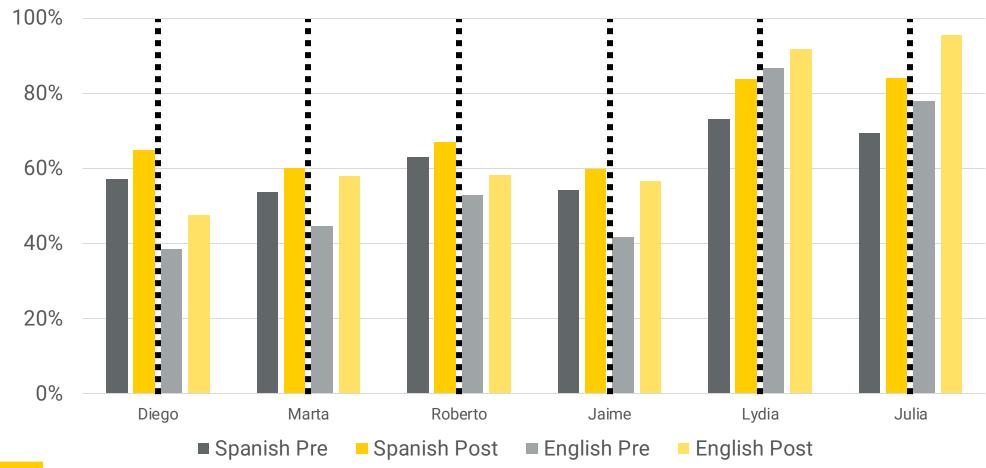
No change
Less adult-like
Ambiguous change
More adult-like
Adult-like (accurate)

	Ja	Jaime		Diego			Roberto		Marta	
Word	Pre	Post		Pre	Post		Pre	Post	Pre	Post
caja	kaxa	kaxa		kaha	kaxa		kaxa	kaxa	kaxa	kaxa
fantasma	fatama	fatama		tapana	patama		pampasma	pantasma	sapanta	fatata
rueda	wela	r ^l wela		weda	weda		veda	weda	nena	weda
gasolina	latoina	xasoina		gasododina	gasugina		gas∧linina	gasonina	golesina	nosinina
jabón	xawon	xabon		xabo	xabon		xabon	xabon	xabon	xabon
gris	li:	klis		gis	gis		wis	gwis	jis	dis
mariposa	mapota	maitota		maneposa	maniposa		maniposa	meniposa	malaposa	maɪposa
piano	pijano	pjano		pinon	pijano		pijano	pijano	pijano	pijano
ciudades	sudae	sjulales		sudades	sudades		sjudades	sjudades	sujade	sudades
rey	k ^ə lej	lej		dej	ðej		wej	wej	јеј	јеј
sartenes	datene	satenets		satenes	saltenes		santenes	santene	satenes	satenes
mueca	weka	weka		mweka	mweka		wenka	meka	meka	mwekwa
delfín	defin	defin		difi	defin		defin	delfind	nafim	d∧fin
espalda	epala	epala		pada	epala		espanda	espanda	abada	epada
nariz	nait	nais		nanis	nanis		nanis	nanis	nadis	nadis
dieta	jeta	tjeta		djeta	djeta		djeta	djeta	djeta	djeta
cuatro	kwato	kwato		kwato	kwato		fato	fato	kako	kako
pintura	pitula	pit ^h ula		pitura	pitola		pituna	pintuda	patula	putuda
pulmón	julmon	pumon		pumon	pumon		pulmon	pulmon	mulmo	pudon
cumpleaños	kumpliano	kupleanots		kupianos	kupeanos		kumenanos	kumpianos	pijanos	pijanos
bandera	balela	fanela		badeda	badeda		bandera	bandera	manela	badeda
salmón	łamon	łamon		samo	samon		salmon	salmon	samon	samol
dragón	dalon	tajon		dago	dagon		wakon	wagon	nanon	dalon
camarones	kamalone	kamalonets		kamadodes	kamalones		kamarones	kamanones	kamalones	kamalodes
tortuga	totuka	tutula		tutuda	totuda		tutura	tutuga	tatula	totuda
hoy	oj	oj		oj	oj		oj	oj	oj	oj
corriendo	kojeno	kwejeno		koledot	kodido		konendo	konjendo	koleno	kedeno
riesgo	liexo	djeko		gedo	gajgos		mwiesgo	wijesgo	seso	ijeso
muerde	mwele	mwele		vede:	wede		βene	mene	mede	mede
abrigo	abio	amio		abigot	abigo		aningo	awigo	adido	amino



Percentage of Consonants Correct-R

Pre/Post Spanish/English





Remember Oliver?

Pretreatment: Phonetic inventory td pb m W **Pretreatment: Cluster inventory** pl-

Posttreatment: Phonetic inventory

Posttreatment: Cluster inventory



Practice with Oliver

Nonstimulable sounds **Phonetic inventory** व्य १ td pb m W **Initial Cluster inventory** PCC-R

33%

Select a complex target for Oliver





pl-

	Dilahial	Labio-	Inter-	Alveelen	Palato-	Dalatal	Volon	Clattal
-	Bilabial	dental	dental	Alveolar	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p b			t d			k g	
Fricatives		f v	θð	s z	∫ 3			
Affricates					tf dz			
Nasals	m			n			ŋ	
Liquids				1		r		
Glides	W					j		h
SD=6	SD=5	SD=4	S	D=3	SD=2	SD:	2	/s/CC

SD=6	SD=5	SD=4	SD=3	SD=2	SD=-2	/s/CC
tw-	bj-	br-	fr-	mj-	sp-	skw-
kw-	pr-	dr-	θr-	sm-	st-	spr-
pj-	tr-	gr-	∫r-	sn-	sk-	str-
kj-	kr-	bl-	fl-			skr-
	pl-	gl-	sl-			spl-
	kl-	fj-	vj-			
		SW-		PATT 2.0: Barlov	v, Taps Richard, 8	Combiths (2023)

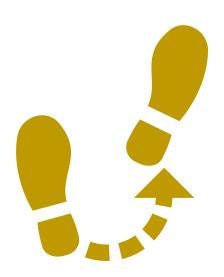
Oliver: /fl-/ and /θr-/





How to get started

- Choose 1-2 students
- Implement the steps
- Teach any way you'd like!
- Celebrate incremental progress
- Watch for change across the speech system



Complexity Resources

Phonological Analysis and Treatment Targets (PATT 2.0)

Assessment: Independent probes available online

- Clusters Probe (McLeod & Hand, 1991)
- Little PEEP (Barlow, 2012)
- EFE [Spanish Probe] (Barlow & Combiths, 2021)

Intervention: Consonant Clusters

- Numerous cluster resources (Taps Richard, 2007-2017): http://slpath.com/
- Clusters worksheets (Bowen, n.d.): https://www.speech-language-therapy.com/
- Clusters activities (Carl, n.d.): http://www.carlscorner.us.com/BlendsBonanza.htm

PATT, Probes, and More:





Create an Action Plan

Write one next step you will take to implement what you have learned:

- Collaborating with Interpreters
- Multilingual Assessment
- Multilingual Intervention
- Children with moderate-to-severe SSDs
- Note down resources you will come back to





Questions?

Contact me: philip-combiths@uiowa.edu