

DECISIONS, DECISIONS: IS IT SLI OR SLD? OR BOTH?

0.1 ASHA CEU and 1 Act 48 PDH

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DAWN MULLER IS AN ASSESSMENT CONSULTANT WITH WESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, A SALARIED EMPLOYEE, AND HAVE NO ADDITIONAL RELEVANT FINANCIAL INTERESTS OR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST RELATED TO THIS PRESENTATION.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the importance of language and its interconnectedness to academic success
- Identify a student's strengths and weaknesses in the constructs of oral expression and listening comprehension using a variety of different formal assessment measures and recognize redundancy in assessment measures of different evaluation personnel
- Compare different MTSS/progress monitoring tools for students with language weaknesses and summarize interventions and accommodations for students with either SLI or SLD in LC/OE



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IEP Teams are often faced with a conundrum in deciding between a Speech Language Impairment or a Specific Learning Disability in Listening Comprehension/Oral Expression. This presentation will provide a platform for understanding the scope of language and its importance to academic success. Participants will review a variety of formal assessment measures, as well as identify the redundancy in testing between IEP team members. Participants will leave with explicit interventions and accommodations for these students, as well as other resources that can be implemented in the classroom tomorrow. The role that MTSS and progress monitoring plays in this decision will also be explored. Participants will leave with an increased comfort level in deciding the most appropriate eligibility category based on data collection.

Speaker's Bio: Dawn Muller is an Assessment Consultant with WPS. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University, where she studied both Communication Disorders and Psychology. She then went on to study at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC where she obtained a Master's degree in Developmental Psychology and a Specialist of School Psychology degree (Psy.S.). Dawn has been a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) for almost 25 years. She has spent the majority of her career working within public school settings and a state School for the Deaf. Additionally, she has taught as an adjunct at several local colleges and universities, including her alma mater Gallaudet University. Throughout her career she has specialized in working with low incidence populations such as deaf/hard of hearing students, students with vision loss, and students with multiple disabilities. She continues to be active in both her national and state organizations for school psychology.