

You Know Good and Well I Don't Speak That

Beyond the Assessment
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Collision Between Immigration and Communication Disorders in the USA

- Resulted in widely felt impact
 - 1) Economic
 - 2) Socio-political
 - 3) Health care system
 - 4) Education
 - i) special education
 - ii) speech language pathology

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- Majority of the research literature on bilingual speech and language disorders focused on Spanish speakers and some aspect of the Spanish language.
- Many new languages have been introduced into mainstream American culture and its education system.
- High incidence of speech and language disorders among speakers of those languages, however, not enough information exists about them to assist the SLP

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- Bilingual Speech and Language Disorders present challenges in four realms:
 - 1) How to accurately assess a child's communicative ability in more than one language
 - 2) How to best support language development in bilingual children with disabilities that affect their language learning
 - 3) What language to use in intervention
 - 4) How to counsel families who speak another language and come from a different culture

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Assessment Recommendations

1) Go Beyond the Ceiling

Enables a therapist to measure how much more a child may be capable of knowing or doing when a limit is not imposed

2) Dynamic Assessment

- Widely considered as most effective assessment procedure for evaluating CLD children
- Differentiate between explanation for deficient performance: poor instruction or limited opportunity as opposed to disability

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Assessment Recommendations

Dynamic Assessment (cont'd)

- Gives information or insight into how child learns
- Gives insight into the modifiability of child, or the degree to which a child is capable of changing in response to intervention
- Most common model: test-teach-retest

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