



SASLHA
South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Position Statement: Multilingual Populations

Ethics and Standards Committee 2011

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Position Statement for Speech-Language Therapists working Multilingual Populations

Introduction

Bilingualism and multilingualism are frequent phenomena (Fredman & Centeno, 2006) and in South Africa, where the majority of clients are bilingual, it is essential that speech-language therapists make every attempt to ensure that their knowledge of working with bilingual clients is current and up-to-date.

There is, however, still no robust database for this diverse population, despite the increased understanding of normal patterns and processes involved in dual language learning (Khonert, 2008). Clinicians are therefore strongly encouraged to be familiar with emerging research in this field and use it as the tool to formulate guidelines that would address their clinical needs.

The Multilingual Affairs Committee of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP) has made recommendations for a reading list in the area of bilingualism.

In place of a Guideline the Ethics and Standards Committee recommends reference to the following core literature for the purposes of informed practice with multilingual populations.

Key concepts and definitions

For practical purposes the term bilingualism refers to the “knowledge and/or use of two or more language codes (bilingualism/multilingualism) (Fredman & Centeno, 200X, p. 1).

Resources (internet links, documents)

- Books

Baker, C. (2006). *Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* (4th ed.). Multilingual Matters: Clevedon.

Bialystok, E. (2001). *Bilingualism in Development: Language, Literacy, and Cognition*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Cummins, J. (2000). *Language, Power and Pedagogy: Bilingual Children in the Crossfire*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters Ltd.

de Bot, K., Lowie, W., & Verspoor, M. (2005). *Second Language Acquisition: An Advanced Research Book*. Routledge: USA and Canada.

De Houwer, A. (2009). *Bilingual First Language Acquisition*. Multilingual Matters: Clevedon.

Edwards, V. (2009). *Learning to be Literate. Multilingual Perspectives*. Multilingual Matters: Clevedon.

Genesee, F., Paradis, J., & Crago, M.B. (2004). *Dual language development and disorders: a handbook on bilingualism and second language learning*, Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.

Kohnert, K. (2008). *Language Disorders in Bilingual Children and Adults*. Plural Publishing Inc: United States of America.

- **Chapters in books**

Pena, E.D., & Bedore, L.M. (2009). Bilingualism in Child Language Disorders. In R. Schwartz (Ed.), *Handbook of Child Language Disorders* (pp. 281-307). New York: Psychology Press.

- **Journal articles**

Evans, P.J., Zinkin, P., Harpham, T., & Chaudury, G. (2001). Evaluation of medical rehabilitation in community based rehabilitation. *Social Science and Medicine*, 53, 333-348.

- Gutierrez-Clellon, V.F., Calderon, J., & Ellis-Weismer, S. (2004). Verbal working memory in bilingual children. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 47, 863-876.
- Kohnert, K., & Medina, A. (2009). Bilingual Children and Communication Disorders: A 30 Year Research Retrospective. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 30, 219-233.
- Kohnert, K., Windsor, J., & Yim, D. (2006). Do Language Based Processing Tasks Separate children with Primary Language Impairment from Typical Bilinguals? *Journal of Learning Disabilities Research and Practice*, 21, 19 – 29.
- Paradis, J. (2004). On the Relevance of Specific Language Impairment to Understanding the Role of Transfer in Second Language Acquisition. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 25, 67-82.
- Paradis, J. (2005). Grammatical Morphology in Children Learning English as a Second Language: Implications of Similarities with Specific Language Impairment. *Language, Speech and Hearing Services in Schools*, 36(3), 172 – 178.
- Paradis, J., & Crago, M. (2000). *Tense and Temporality: A Comparison between Children Learning a Second Language and Children with SLI*. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 43, 834-847.
- Purdie, N., & Oliver, R. (1999). Language Learning Strategies used by Bilingual School-Aged Children. *System*, 27, 375-388.
- Windsor, J., & Kohnert, K. (2004). In Search of Common Ground-Part 1: Lexical Performance by Linguistically Diverse Learners. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 47, 1271-1282.

- **Journals**

International Journal of Bilingualism

- **Web sites**

www.multilingual-matters.com



Key references

Fredman, M. & Centeno, J.G. (2006). Recommendations for working with bilingual children.

Kohnert, K. (2008). *Language Disorders in Bilingual Children and Adults*. Plural Publishing Inc: United States of America.

Acknowledgements

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