

Gestalt Language Processing in Older Students

Considering Evidence-Based Practice and Parent Perspectives

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- As our vast field of communication sciences continues to expand and evolve, it is always worth remaining curious about new treatment methods, gaining knowledge through multiple sources, from research to real-world practice.
- Always keeping in mind ASHA's Evidence Based research triangle and incorporating the client/family perspective as part of an evidence-based practice approach.
- Recognizing the power of Implementation Science
 - Helps to bridge the typical 17 year gap between research and clinical practice for speech-language pathologists (SLPs), audiologists, and researchers in communication sciences and disorders.
 - In its simplest definition, implementation science is the examination of methods that promote use of well-researched interventions in “real-world” settings.
- Recognizing the true value of what each of our students bring to the therapy session, listening to feedback from the parents on how communication impacts their daily lives and learning from these two perspectives as SLP's to support and facilitate real-world, practical communication.
- What do GLP therapy sessions look like? Not your mother's speech therapy session.....
 - Silent therapy sessions
 - Building rapport
 - Get to know what they are interested in--favorite tv shows, activities, etc.

- Keeping it fun, motivational, practical, related to everyday life, including modified leisure activities and vocational considerations.
- Recognizing and acknowledging our clinical expertise as SLP's, even when therapy sessions do not look like what was learned in graduate school.
- Documentation of skilled intervention
 - Data collection of functional receptive and expressive language intervention, including language sampling and analysis.
 - Strength-based approaches to help our students meet their goals.
- Communication Partner Training
 - Working with families, teachers and other familiar communication partners to help develop meaningful conversational exchanges.
- Considering communication needs across the lifespan, beyond basic requesting and protesting

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