



# The Value of Multilingual Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)



## Supporting Multilingual Clients: Trends, Best Practices, and Challenges

In a recent ASHA survey of more than 200 SLPs...



100% report having at least one multilingual client on their caseload.<sup>1</sup>



40% report that more than one third of their clients are multilingual.<sup>1</sup>



25% report that at least half of their current caseload consists of multilingual clients.<sup>1</sup>



### Best Practice Recommendations for Supporting Multilingual Clients in Speech-Language Pathology

- Conduct assessments of communication, swallowing, cognition, and hearing in all languages that the client uses.<sup>1</sup>
- Provide speech-language pathology services to multilingual clients in their preferred language or languages.<sup>2,3,4</sup>
- Collaborate with multilingual and English language development instructors during assessment and intervention in schools.<sup>1</sup>



### Barriers to Multilingual Speech-Language Pathology Services: Workforce Shortages and Policy Compliance

- Only **8.5%** of SLPs working in health care self-identify as multilingual service providers (MSPs).<sup>5</sup>
- **70%** of MSPs report there are more job openings than job seekers.<sup>1</sup>
- **39%** of SLPs report limited availability of multilingual SLPs.<sup>6</sup>
- **29%** of surveyed SLPs report that they cannot comply with their organizational policies for providing services to culturally and linguistically diverse individuals due to a lack of access to and availability of interpreters.<sup>7</sup>

## Multilingual SLP Involvement Improves Clinician and Client Outcomes



### Increased Clinician Confidence

% reporting confidence



Multilingual SLPs

Monolingual SLPs

Multilingual SLPs are **twice** as likely to report confidence when working with multilingual clients.<sup>8</sup>



Monolingual SLPs who receive training from MSPs report greater confidence when working with multilingual clients.<sup>8</sup>



### Improved Literacy

#### Following Spanish literacy interventions delivered by multilingual SLPs...

- **80%** of first-grade dual language learners master age-level morphosyntax skills in both English and Spanish.<sup>9</sup>
- **73%** of these children improve oral language per teacher report.<sup>9</sup>
- These students improve their Spanish and English morphosyntax by **19%**, with specific improvements in...
  - Spanish production of adjective agreement by **27%** and imperfect tense by **17%**.<sup>9</sup>
  - English production of negatives by **33%**, passives by **31%**, and third-person singular by **27%**.<sup>9</sup>

#### Following parent-mediated interventions that include training by multilingual SLPs...

- **100%** of parents report high satisfaction with the interventions.<sup>10</sup>
- Parents **triple** the number of times they read with their children each week.<sup>10</sup>



### Improved Naming

Following multilingual anomia therapy, **100%** of bilingual patients with primary progressive aphasia improve naming in both languages spoken,<sup>11</sup> with...

- **70%** of individuals demonstrating generalization in their dominant language.<sup>11</sup>
- **40%** of individuals demonstrating generalization in their non-dominant language.<sup>11</sup>
- **70%-80%** of individuals demonstrating cross-linguistic transfer.<sup>11</sup>

To learn more about multilingual service delivery, visit [ASHA's Multilingual Service Delivery in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Practice Portal](#)

## References

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