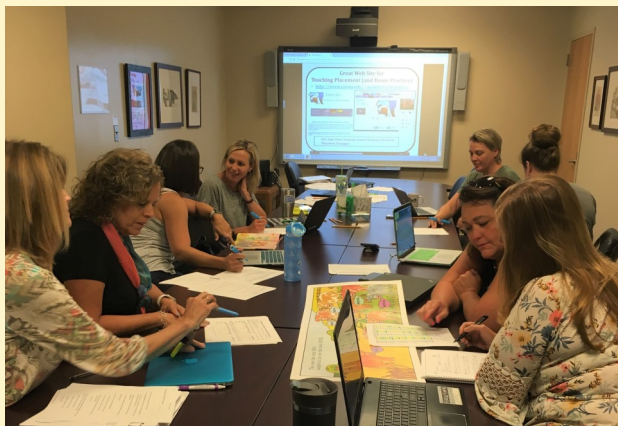


Learning Together with Area School-Based SLPs

This summer, the AppState Communication Disorders Clinic invited several school-based SLPs from five surrounding counties to participate in an intensive series of workshops on assessing and treating phonological speech disorders using the “phonological complexity” approach.

The Phonological Complexity Approach

There are a number of evidence-based treatments for preschool children who have phonological speech disorders. However, research suggests that many SLPs are not equally familiar with all evidence-based treatment options. In a recent survey, over 50% of SLPs indicated using a traditional, phonological awareness, minimal pairs, or cycles approach to phonological disorders. Only 8% indicated using the complexity approach. Ironically, the complexity approach has been the subject of more research than all other approaches combined. The complexity approach often results in faster progress in therapy, reducing the amount of time needed to remediate a child’s phonological speech disorder. Thus, it represents a win-win scenario that we wanted to share with SLPs in neighboring counties.



Nine area SLPs and clinicians from the AppState CDC clinic met for several hours on four Fridays this summer to complete training on the complexity approach. The workshop allowed several of our off-campus supervisors to enhance their skills while making connections with each other and members of our clinic staff.

Comments from some of the participants:

“This training has provided a new evidence-based practice that I had no prior knowledge of, to add to my practice. I enjoyed working through the assessment phase of



the training with the group. Being able to discuss ideas together aided in my ability to process the advanced content of this training.”

Katherine

“I will use several of the concepts that were presented in this training. I will take inventories of the sounds that my students are able to produce in order to identify true targets as well as to share with parents and teachers the sounds that the child can produce. I have ordered the home practice pages offered on SLPath that will allow me to send home structured practice and explanations of the importance of these home practices to facilitate generalization. Thank you for allowing me to participate in these sessions.”



Tammy

We offer our sincere appreciation for the continued support of the Scottish Rite, without which we could not fulfill our mission.