

Regular Issue
02/14/15

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Speech/Language/Hearing Association

ASHA Revisited

2/21/2015

Where: UPMC Passavant Hospital
9100 Babcock Blvd Pittsburgh PA 15237
Donor Hall

- Main entrance - 1st Floor – make a left
- pass the coffee shop & piano
- Donor Hall on the left across from gift shop

When: Saturday, February 21st, 2015

Time: 9:00AM – NOON

PRESENTERS & TOPICS:

Tracy Fox, M.S., CCC-SLP/L & Nancy A. Harrison, M.S., CCC-SLP/L
Using the VB-MAPP Assessment and Barriers to choose an AAC
device for non-verbal students with autism

Sujini Ramachandar, MS, CCC-SLP - The Therapy in Teletherapy:
Benefits of Parent Education in Children with Hearing Loss

Diane L. Williams, Ph.D. CCC-SLP - Information Processing
Mechanisms in ASD: What We've Learned Relevant to SLPs

Workshop Fees

Free for Members

\$10 Student Non-Members

\$20 Professional Non-Members

Additional \$10 fee for those seeking Act 48

<http://www.swpscha.org/>

Please pass this along to any SLPs that may be interested!

Title:

Using the VB-MAPP Assessment and Barriers to choose an AAC device for non-verbal students with autism

Speakers:

Tracy Fox, M.S., CCC-SLP/L & Nancy A. Harrison, M.S., CCC-SLP/L

Investigators: Investigator (PI): Kristen Lintelman Stackiewicz, Co-Investigator (s) Allison Dillon; Tracy Fox; Nancy Harrison

Bios:

Tracy Fox, M.S., CCC-SLP/L is a Senior Speech and Language Pathologist at The Day School at The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh. At TDS Tracy is responsible for providing speech and language services to students with autism, and participates in the PA Autism Initiative. Tracy encouraged the collaboration between the Day School and DynaVox Technologies to research and develop various techniques to incorporate AAC technology into an ABA teaching style. The result of this collaboration was positive and thus presented, along with her colleagues, at the National Autism Conference at Penn State University in 2009.

Nancy A. Harrison, M.S., CCC-SLP/L has worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist for 32 years. Nancy came to The Children's Institute 22 years ago, working in The Day School. She has worked with students with multiple handicaps who use a variety of AAC devices. For the past 4 years, Nancy has worked strictly with students with Autism and has participated in the PA Autism Initiative. Nancy has extensive experience with AAC systems, ABA teaching strategies and is experienced with the VB-MAPP and various other speech and language assessments.

Abstract:

The overall goal of this study is to determine the feasibility of using the Verbal Behavior Milestone Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP) assessments and barrier scores to objectively select an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device for non-verbal students with Autism. This retrospective analysis will include TDS students that have a primary diagnoses of autism, are between 7 and 21 years of age, are non-verbal, and who use alternative communication.

Title:

The Therapy in Teletherapy: Benefits of Parent Education in Children with Hearing Loss

Speaker:

Sunjini Rmachandar, MS, CCC-SLP

Investigators: Sunjini Rmachandar, MS, CCC-SLP, Michelle Parfitt, MA, CCC-SLP & Deborah Moncrieff, Ph.D.

Abstract:

Evidence for benefits of parent education on language outcomes of children with hearing loss has been consistently documented over the decades. This paper addresses the benefits and challenges of parent education as a part of a comprehensive treatment plan via teletherapy for families that have accessibility limitations (income or distance).

Outcomes:

1. Participants will be able to describe how to incorporate LSL strategies into a teletherapy sessions
Learner Outcome
2. Participants will be able to compare and contrast the benefits and challenges of teletherapy and face to face therapy.
3. Participants will be able to list three new ideas to hold a child's attention during teletherapy sessions

Title:

Information Processing Mechanisms in ASD: What We've Learned Relevant to SLPs

Speaker:

Diane L. Williams, Ph.D. CCC-SLP

Bio:

Diane L. Williams, Ph.D. CCC-SLP, Associate Professor, Duquesne University, has 35 years of clinical experience in developmental language disorders and conducts behavioral and neuroimaging research in cognitive and linguistic processing in autism. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and a book, *Developmental Language Disorders: Learning, Language, and the Brain*.

Abstract:

Dr. Williams will discuss the primary findings from the 5-year studies of the University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) that focused on the neurobiological bases of ASD using behavioral and functional neuroimaging studies during cognitive and linguistic processing. The results of these coordinated projects suggest that ASD is associated with an underlying problem with innate implicit or automatic cognitive processes that facilitate learning in general (e.g., formation of concepts/prototypes) and language learning and use in particular.

Outcomes:

1. Participants will be able to discuss how functional magnetic resonance imaging methodology can be used to examine brain systems underlying language and social communication abilities in individuals with ASD.
2. Participants will be able to describe the impact of these neurobiological differences on cognitive and linguistic processing in ASD.
3. Participants will be able to share knowledge about problems with implicit processes in ASD related to the formation of concepts/prototypes and to relate these findings to problems with language learning in ASD.