

# **Differential Diagnosis in Preschool Evaluations: A Case Study**

By Dr. Catherine Crowley and Georgia Duan

Online self-study course offered by Teachers College, Columbia University

## **Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify important factors to consider when making a differential diagnosis of speech and language impairments when assessing preschoolers.
2. Identify a variety of assessment materials that can assist in the differential diagnosis analysis of preschool and early elementary age children.
3. Identify how careful review of prior speech-language services and evaluations may reveal concerns or questions about a child's speech-language progress.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of ASHA practice portals and evidence-based practice concerning the provision of services to children with apraxia of speech.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of ASHA practice portals and evidence-based practice concerning the provision of services to culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

## **Course Description**

This course focused on how to differentiate speech and language impairments when assessing preschoolers, using a variety of assessment materials and reviewing prior speech-language services and evaluations.. It required knowledge of how to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate assessments of children with developmental apraxia of speech and of how to develop quality treatment goals.

## **Time Ordered Agenda**

Participants review the video modules and the readings and then take the written assessment. The topics of the video modules are to be completed in the following order:

- Module 1: Why an Accurate Differential Diagnosis Matters
- Module 2: Critical Questions for the Parent Interview (Part 1)
- Module 3: Critical Questions for the Parent Interview (Part 2)
- Module 4: Academic Language in Receptive and Expressive Language
- Module 5: Receptive Language Comprehension and Following Directions
- Module 6: Eliciting Quality Narratives in Expressive Language
- Module 7: Motor Speech, Articulation, and Speech Sound Inventory
- Module 8: Dynamic Assessment: Nonword Repetition, Syllable and Sentence Repetition

- Module 9: Putting It All Together in the Written Evaluation Report
- Module 10: Developing Appropriate Goals for the IEP

These course offered for free by Teachers College Columbia University as a service to the profession. The only applicable fees are those associated with the fees of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association for its awarding the CEUs such as the ASHA CEU Registry.

### Disclosures

Catherine Crowley, J.D., Ph.D., CCC-SLP has a financial relationship with Teachers College Columbia University in that she is a salaried faculty member and she receives no additional financial compensation from this course. Dr. Crowley has no other financial or nonfinancial relationships. In developing this course Georgia Duan, M.S., CCC-SLP had a financial relationship with Teachers College Columbia University in that she was a graduate assistant and as part of that work Ms. Duan was paid to assist in the development of this course. Ms. Duan currently has no other financial or nonfinancial relationships.

Dr. Catherine (Cate) Crowley, Professor of Practice in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Teachers College Columbia University, founded and directs the bilingual/multicultural program focus and the Bilingual Extension Institute. In Ghana, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala she creates innovative, sustainable approaches to meeting the needs of people with communication disabilities. An experienced attorney, Dr. Crowley works with school districts and state education departments to increase the accuracy of disability evaluations and to identify appropriate supports for students with academic difficulties. An ASHA fellow, Dr. Crowley received the “2012 Humanitarian Award” from the National Council of Ghanaian Associations, and ASHA awards for “Contributions to Multicultural Affairs”; “International Achievement”; and “Outstanding contributions to SLP services in schools” and Honors from the New York State Speech-Language and Hearing Association. She is currently chair of the ASHA ad hoc committee on language proficiency.

Georgia Duan graded received her master’s in speech-language pathology from Teachers College Columbia University in the program of Communication Sciences and Disorders. A multilingual in Spanish, Italian, German, and English, she is dedicated to serving culturally and linguistically diverse populations in her work as a speech-language provider. At the time this course was created, Ms. Duan was a graduate assistant for Dr. Cate Crowley.

This program is offered for 0.6 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area).



**Teachers College Columbia University** is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.