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Electronic Language Sample Analysis Options

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Moderated by:
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Peer Review Process

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Contact Amy Natho at anatho@speechpathology.com

Electronic Language Sample Analysis Options

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University of Northern Iowa

Session Overview

o Introduction
o Overview of electronic programs available
o Resources for transcribing and coding language samples
o Practice with electronic programs
o Interpretation of results from Language Sample reports
o Conclusion

Importance of Language Sample

o Representative of language abilities and needs of the child
o One assessment tool
o Used to show growth or change across time
o Used to document therapy outcomes in natural settings

o See SpeechPathology.com presentation "Language Sample Techniques" from August 2014 for additional information (#6768)

Language Transcription

o Listen/Watch taped sample
o Include all speakers and context (i.e., adult/clinician, child/client)
o If using an electronic program, type transcript
o Make decisions about segmenting utterances
  • Consider using communication units (c-units)
o Make decisions about transcribing and coding based on information needed and conventions of the program that is being used
o Note errors and preliminary areas of concern
o Include information from transcript and analysis into evaluation reports

Questions to Consider

o What are the pros and cons for electronic programs?
o What are the strengths and limitations of electronic programs?

Electronic Programs & Resources

o SALT
o CHILDES/CLAN/CHAT
o CP
o LENA

Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT)

o http://www.saltsoftware.com/

o Resources
o Demo with language sample
o Types of analysis
  • MLU
  • TTR
  • Others

Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES)

o Computerized Language Analysis (CLAN) program
o Data transcribed in CHAT format
o http://childes.psy.cmu.edu/
o Resources

Computerized Profiling (CP)

o http://www.computerizedprofiling.org/
o Language samples transcribed orthographically
o Speech/Phonological samples transcribed phonetically
o Resources

LENA Language Assessment

o http://www.lenafoundation.org/Data Services/LenaLanguageAssessment.a spx
o Specifically for collecting and analyzing recordings of children ages 2 months to 48 months
o Types of analysis:
  • Adult Words report
  • Conversational Turns report
  • Audio Environment Report

Revisit question…answers may include…

What are the pros/strengths and cons/weaknesses for electronic programs?

o Pro/strengths
  • Systematic in coding (learn the rules)
  • Comparison across language samples and use of databases
  • Accurate at number crunching (math)
  • Speed of analysis
  • Flexible uses
o Cons/weaknesses
  • Time involved in learning coding
  • SLP still has to do the transcription and coding
  • Program is not "smarter" than the person who enters the data
  • Cost (for some programs)

Suggestions for Getting Started

o Explore websites and look at resources available

o Consider needs of your students, building, district, agency

o Select a program

o Learn the conventions and coding

o Practice using resources available

o Try with your own language samples

Conclusion/Questions

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