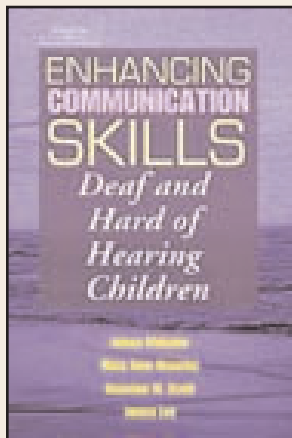


Enhancing Communication Skills: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

By James Mahshie, Ph.D., Mary June Moseley, Ph.D.,
Susanne M. Scott, M.S. and James Lee, M.S.



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This book provides appropriate information for assessing the communication abilities of children with hearing loss at all stages of language development. The ultimate outcome is to provide skills so that the clinician and/or teacher can help develop and improve communication skills so that this population's learning potential can be maximized.

According to the authors, the purpose is to "address a need for a concise source of information for clinicians with limited experience with deaf clients." Questions addressed include: Are there norm-referenced tests for assessing deaf or hard-of-hearing children? Can familiar standardized tests be used with my deaf client? What can I do to maximize a child's communication in the classroom? How can I develop a therapy plan so this child will succeed, when I have limited experience working with children who have hearing loss? What speech-language abilities can we expect? What can we do to enhance these children's confidence in their abilities to communicate in a mainstream classroom?

This book is aimed at clinicians in mainstream settings. More specifically, however, the book is aimed at those speech-language pathologists who work in mainstream settings (large caseloads but with only a handful of students who have hearing loss). The authors are all speech-language pathologists, and/or aural habilitationists at Gallaudet University. Collectively, their research has focused on language development and the production of speech by children/adolescents with hearing loss. They have extensive experience providing clinical services to children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing, as well as teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Hearing, Speech & Language Sciences at Gallaudet.

The book takes a holistic view, so that the emphasis is on the total child as a communicator, rather than on a child with a disorder, or on the disorder itself. Emphasis is on the specific skills needed to be good communicator, as well as on the environment and the context in which communication occurs. This book includes a discussion of key factors that lead to communication success; review of assessment and intervention of communication skills from pre-language through later language; practical guidelines and "best clinical practice" to ensure that children with hearing loss progress in the educational arena; each chapter includes case studies of four students with hearing loss over time, which allows an age/grade-appropriate discussion of therapy and treatment in real-world contexts; assistive listening devices that can be used in conjunction with other amplification systems to maximize communication abilities.

Ultimately, this book is designed to provide information and skills to those clinicians who may have little experience working with children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing.

REVIEWED BY:
Linda Jacobs-Condit, AuD, CCC-A
George Washington University
- Doody's Review -