

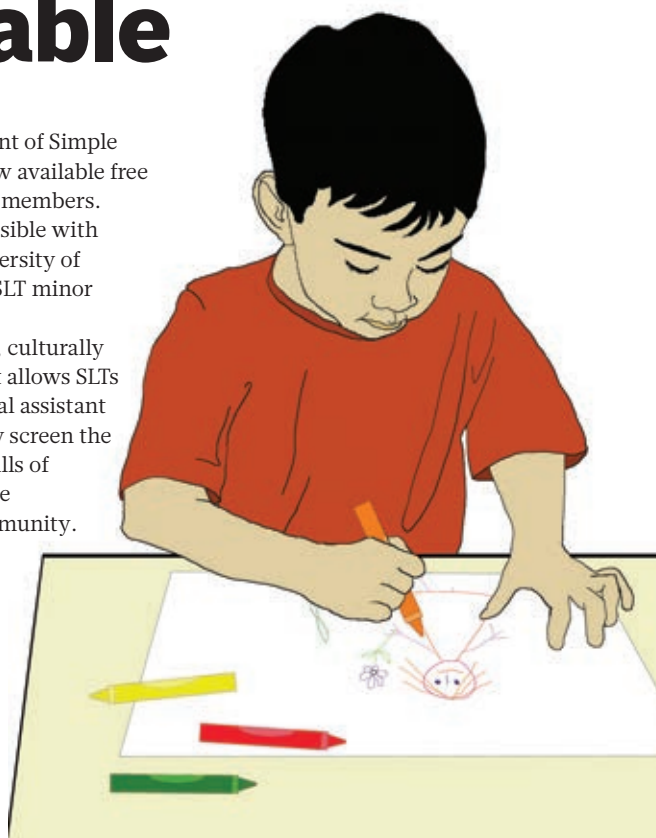
Free bilingualism resource now available

The Bilingual Assessment of Simple Sentences (BASS) is now available free to download for RCSLT members. This has been made possible with the support of the University of Manchester and an RCSLT minor grant.

This evidence-based, culturally appropriate assessment allows SLTs working with a bilingual assistant or interpreter to rapidly screen the expressive language skills of young children from the Pakistani heritage community. Home language assessment is essential to distinguish diversity from disorder and reach a differential diagnosis.

Children with a Pakistani heritage may be exposed to Mirpuri, Punjabi, or Urdu, as well as English. Mirpuri is the most frequently spoken language in this community, but it is often dismissed as a dialect since it is perceived to have low social status compared to Punjabi and Urdu. Mirpuri also has no written form. Target sentences are transcribed in IPA script for all three languages.

Although bilingual children are no more likely to experience language disorder than their monolingual peers, other factors such as socio-economic deprivation may put this population at risk. Bilingual children often codeswitch between English and their home language (and, in this population, other Pakistani heritage languages) and this is not a sign of confusion. Research has shown that codeswitching occurred in just over 40% of multi-word utterances; that



children codeswitched according to a rule-based system; and that bilingual children's mean length of utterance (MLU) for codeswitched utterances indicated that these were the children's most complex utterances. Children with little or no codeswitching and/or limited MLU should therefore be assessed in detail as they may be at risk of language disorder.

To find out more, download the printable PDFs, including the full manual, picture book, recording and scoring form, target sentences and questions and prompts at bit.ly/bilingualismresources

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RCSLT CPD diary update

The new RCSLT CPD diary is now live, with some improved tools and functionality to help you get the most out of your continuing professional development (CPD). We have created a special guide to help you start using it. The older version of the CPD diary is no longer accessible online. If you need any content from your old CPD diary, please email info@rcslt.org with your request and the enquiries team will be able to provide it for you.

📍 To view the new guide, visit bit.ly/CPDdiaryguide

New guidance now online

The RCSLT has published new online guidance in the areas of critical care and voice. They are now available on the clinical guidance area of the website. Many thanks to all the members who helped with authoring and reviewing these documents.

📍 For the voice guidance, visit bit.ly/z2zkM6jn

📍 For the critical care guidance, visit bit.ly/z2zwBLMy

New post for Victoria Joffe

After 18 years at City, University of London. Professor Victoria Joffe will be leaving to take up a new post as professor and dean of the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex from 1 October. Victoria has made a significant contribution to the profession throughout her time at City, and we hope she will continue to work closely with the RCSLT and colleagues throughout the profession in this exciting new role.

SLT launches YouTube channel

THINK, TALK and LEARN is a new YouTube channel run by consultant SLT Lyndsey Allen. After 20 years working in the NHS and charity sector, Lyndsey decided to get creative by launching a series of short videos on language, play, literacy and social skill development. "Being a Youtuber has its challenges," she says. "I've learnt about video editing and social media marketing, and it is time consuming, often with very little reward. But it's also fun, and alongside my work with families and training around the globe, makes a varied and exciting part of my SLT career."

📍 Views the videos at

www.youtube.com/c/THINKTALKandLEARN