

The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Testing and Treating Children with Selective Mutism

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This workshop focuses on Selective Mutism (SM), a childhood anxiety disorder impacting communication where children consistently fail to speak in specific social settings despite speaking comfortably in others, such as at home with family. Participants will gain knowledge about the etiology of SM and how it impacts social communication in a variety of settings. This training includes a comprehensive process that integrates speech, language, and behavioral assessments for differential diagnosis and intervention. Practical strategies for supporting children as they develop vocal control and pragmatic language skills are demonstrated to facilitate communication. Attendees will be exposed to innovative, evidence-informed treatment methods that help children initiate and sustain voice production for spoken language in various contexts, including conversation. This workshop will help speech-language professionals accurately evaluate speech, language, voice-related communication, and deliver effective treatments so that children with SM can communicate more comfortably.