Talk With Me

A Resource Guide for Speech-language Pathologists and Educators
working with
Linguistically Diverse Young Children and their Families.

Revised 2012
Introduction

Talk with Me-Revised 2012

A resource guide for speech-language pathologists and educators working with linguistically diverse young children and their families

Background

The original Talk with Me: A resource guide for speech-language pathologists and early childhood special education teams working with linguistically diverse young children and their families was published in 2002 by the Minnesota Department of Education. It was a joint project between the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (now known as the Minnesota Department of Education) and was disseminated to early childhood special education programs across Minnesota. In addition, MSHA members received their own copies upon request. The first version of this resource guide was well received and was widely used.

Purpose

The purpose of Talk with Me-Revised 2012 is to provide professionals with easy access to updated resources that will help them serve young culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students and their families more effectively. Much has changed since the original resource was published in 2002 and since the revised edition which was written in 2009. Advances in technology have changed how people access and share resources, more information related to CLD children has become available and new requirements (i.e., early childhood outcomes - ECOs) have been instituted. In addition, professionals throughout the state who have used the first Talk with Me have provided feedback regarding what information has been and would be most useful to them in their practice.

As a result, Talk with Me-Revised 2012 has been designed to be a dynamic, online resource that is “user friendly” and practical. It will again be distributed to each school district’s Early Childhood Special Education in the state of Minnesota. It will also be available online on the Minnesota Speech-Language Hearing Association’s Website. It will allow users not only to view and download information but also to link directly to other recommended resources on the Web as well. More information that is relevant to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers and general early childhood
teachers has been added. New topics addressed in *Talk with Me-Revised 2012* include ECSE evaluations, early childhood screening, professional development opportunities, selective mutism, cultural competence, biliteracy, ongoing progress monitoring and decision making regarding language immersion programs and children with identified special education needs.

**How to Use this Resource Guide**

Links are provided throughout *Talk with Me-Revised 2012* to help users navigate through the resource guide. The chapter titles listed in the folder are links to each section of the manual. By selecting a chapter title or Appendix group, users will be able to go directly to the section of their choice. Each section contains general, introductory information related to its topic as well as descriptions of and links to additional resources. Some of the links will open documents that are designed to be printed off and used, such as language interview forms, articulation screeners in other languages, parent handouts in other languages, etc. Other links may direct users to locations such as different organizations’ Websites, podcasts or publishers. In the event that a link is no longer active or if a Web address has changed and does not support redirection, users can conduct an internet search using the title of the resource.

School teams may decide to use the resources found in this guide to create and/or enhance their own staff development programs. For example, recommended books and articles could be read and discussed as a professional learning community activity. The last chapter highlights recorded lectures by experts in the specialized field of culturally and linguistically diverse children with special needs. These lectures as well as other video or computer training modules could be viewed as a group.

As you use *Talk with Me-Revised 2012*, you will become familiar with the names of people and programs who are leaders in the field of culturally responsive service delivery. We encourage you to watch for new information and materials from these sources. Likewise, as you work with CLD students and families, you may discover resources that are not referred to in this current version of *Talk with Me-Revised 2012* or you may be inspired to create your own materials. You can help keep this resource guide current by submitting your ideas for additional resources and materials. Suggestions will be reviewed and new information will be added yearly. Please submit your contributions via email to: the Minnesota Speech-Language Hearing Association’s (MSHA) Multicultural Affairs committee via annderr@gmail.com.

**Contributors’ Biographies**

**Kris Schmiesing Christians M.S., CCC-SLP,** is a speech-language pathologist who earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders and Spanish from St. Cloud State University and her Master’s Degree from the University of New Mexico in
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Albuquerque. Kris is bilingual and works primarily with Spanish-speaking students in bilingual and Dual Immersion programs in the St. Paul Public Schools. Kris was one of the contributors to the first edition of *Talk with Me* and participated in the ASHA training grant *Clinical Decision Making with Linguistically Diverse Learners: A Statewide Professional Training Model*. She and her husband also have two children adopted in Colombia and enjoy the challenge of raising bilingual children. kris.christians@gmail.com

**Ann Derr, M.A. CCC-SLP** is a bilingual speech-language pathologist (Spanish and Portuguese) who received her B.A. from Macalester in Psychology and Spanish and her Master’s degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Minnesota. She has worked for Saint Paul Public Schools’ Early Childhood Special Education Evaluation Team for 30 years evaluating children birth to five years old who speak dozens of different languages. She lived in Brazil for 4 years and studied in Mexico. Ann is the co-founder and past chairperson of the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s (MSHA) Multicultural Affairs Committee, recipient of the Spirit of MSHA Award and MSHA’s Honors of the Association. She produced the video: *Teachers in the Trenches* and was a participating author of the original *Talk with Me* manual and its revisions. She has been a trainer with the ASHA grant: *Clinical Decision Making with Linguistically Diverse Learners: A Statewide Professional Training Model*; a presenter at MSHA conventions, the Minnesota Department of Education and various Minnesota school district workshops; the conference chair of the Surgical Teams to Developing Nations conference in 2005 and 2008; and a frequent volunteer to Guatemala with a cleft palate medical team. annderr@gmail.com

**Lillian Durán, Ph.D.** earned her doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU). Over the past three years she reestablished the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) licensure program at MSU and has conducted research with Spanish-speaking children attending Head Start. Lillian worked for 10 years as an ECSE teacher both in Prince George’s County, Maryland and Minnesota. She became interested in researching evidence-based practices for supporting young English Language Learners (ELLs) when she and her family moved from the Washington D.C. area to rural south central Minnesota, where she worked as an ECSE teacher in many communities with high Latino, Somali and Sudanese populations. Lillian is current on the faculty at Utah State University in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation. She is the lead trainer for the Minnesota master cadre for Serving Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families. lillian.duran@usu.edu

**Marilyn Fairchild, M.A., M.A., CCC-SLP**, one of the contributors to the first edition of *Talk with Me*, is a speech pathologist at the University of Minnesota. She works in clinical education, supervising graduate students with pediatric and adult clients from various cultural and linguistic groups. In that setting, she oversees preschool speech
and language groups with an early literacy focus. She also supervises graduate students at a charter school with a student population comprised of refugees, recent immigrants, and other English language learners. Marilyn received a B.A. in English with minors in Political Science and Speech Communication from Louisiana State University as well as two Masters Degrees, one in Teaching English as a Second Language and one in Communication Disorders, both from the University of Minnesota. She has served on cleft palate teams in the U.S., Peru, and Guatemala, served as co-chair of the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Multicultural Affairs Committee, presented on topics such as second language acquisition and communication needs of internationally adopted children, worked as a communication consultant for the Chongqing Bureau of Health, and participated in the ASHA training grant *Bilingual/Multicultural Clinical Training in Speech-Language Pathology*. She also works privately with adult typical language learners on modifying elements of their English such as accent and grammar.  

Sonja Griebel, M.A., CCC-SLP currently works on the Early Childhood Special Education Inclusion Team in the St. Paul Public Schools. Her caseload consists of primarily Spanish-speaking children with a variety of speech and language delays and disorders. She graduated from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a minor in Spanish. Through the U of MN's Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID) program, she spent 6 months working in Ecuador at a center for children with cerebral palsy and at a school for students with developmental delays. Sonja earned a Master's Degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She is a member of the MSHA Multicultural Affairs Committee and one of the contributors to the original *Talk with Me*. She has given presentations to parents and teachers in the Early Childhood Family Education program on topics such as selective mutism and English Language Learners and on speech and language development and literacy. Sonja is also a member of the Family Guided Routine Based Interventions Cadre through the Minnesota Department of Education.  

Deanine Mann, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a Spanish-English bilingual speech-language pathologist who earned a B.A. in Communication Disorders with double minors in Spanish and the Humanities from Valparaiso University and a M.S. Degree in Speech Language Pathology from the bilingual program at Texas Christian University. She has 17 years experience working with preschool aged children and currently is a member of the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) team in the Centennial Public Schools. Previous work settings include an Easter Seals Early Intervention Clinic, the Children’s Memorial Hospital of Chicago, Head Start Centers in the Chicago area, and the ECSE program in the Roseville school district. Deanine has served as co-chair of the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Multicultural Affairs Committee and was a contributor to the first *Talk with Me* resource guide. She participated in the ASHA training grant *Clinical Decision Making with Linguistically Diverse Learners: A Statewide Professional Training Model*. She also has presented at ASHA and MSHA conferences.
and has provided trainings for various school districts related to serving culturally and linguistically diverse students. She recently has co-led three church mission trips to Guatemala. dmann@isd12.org

Christine Paz, M.A., CCC, is a speech-language pathologist in the St. Paul Public Schools. She conducts native language assessments as a member of the ELL (English Language Learner) Special Education Resource group that completes evaluations for ELL students in grades K-12. She has over twenty-five years of experience conducting bilingual assessments in California and Florida before returning to Minnesota. Previously she lived in Central America for several years. She has a Bachelors Degree and a Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology and certification in bilingual assessment from San Jose State University. Christine is one of the contributors to the first Talk with Me manual. Currently she is active in the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association serving as a regional representative on the Policy Council as well as a member of the Multicultural Affairs Committee, of which she has been a part since its inception. Christine.paz@spps.org

Anne Pionkowski, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a Spanish-English bilingual speech-language pathologist in St. Paul Public Schools. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with majors in Communication Disorders and Spanish. During this time she had the opportunity to study abroad in the Dominican Republic where she learned about their health care system and improved her Spanish language skills. Anne earned a Master’s Degree from Arizona State University in Speech and Hearing Science with an emphasis on bilingualism. She has led parent groups surrounding the topic of language development and currently works for Saint Paul Public Schools as a special education resource coordinator. anne.pionkowski@spps.org

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