INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPLEXITY APPROACH

1.0 HOUR

Graham Speech Therapy, LLC

COURSE ABSTRACT

The complexity approach is a much-researched evidence-based intervention for children with phonological disorders, though not widely used by even seasoned practitioners. This approach contends that strategically targeting just one or two complex later developing phonemes or clusters will have a broader and more efficient impact on a child's speech system than by targeting each sound in error one at a time. The purpose of this presentation is to provide a general explanation of this approach and to demystify its target selection principles for the average clinician who may not specialize in speech sound disorders.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain how the complexity approach differs from traditional developmental approaches
- Discuss how the principle of implicational universals would lead SLPs to select more complex phonemes and clusters to target during therapy
- Describe how the sonority principle influences the prioritization of particular clusters for remediation

AMY GRAHAM, MA, CCC-SLP

Amy Graham is a speech language pathologist and owner of Graham Speech Therapy, a private practice in Colorado Springs that specializes in pediatric speech sound disorders. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Communicative Disorders from California State University, Fullerton and has been an SLP for over 20 years. Amy provides professional development on various evidence-based practices regarding the assessment and treatment of SSD and is the creator of numerous SSD-specific assessment and therapy resources. She has been a guest on numerous SLP podcasts and has a particular interest in supporting and equipping SLPs by posting frequent therapy videos and practical therapy tips on social media platforms.

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