# Thinking Outside the Box: Assessing Language of Young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

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## Objectives:

• Identify and promote knowledge regarding evaluation of the language development of D'HH children who use sign language

Discuss and enhance current language evaluation protocols for Deaf/HH children

#### Overview

- Fully accessible and comprehensible language
  - o Follows age-appropriate acquisition and developmental milestones

• Continued delays in language lead to early interventionists struggling to find solutions and strategies to 'close the gap.'

- Akey factor in closing the gap is effective evaluation
  - Giving professionals data from which interventions can be designed

## Language Development

- Home language environment
- The impact that the home language environment has on linguistic and social emotional development
- Average three-year-old Deaf child's language development
- Limited or no access to visual language
- Impact of a fully accessible and comprehensible language

#### **Evaluation Process**

• Use of assessments

Method of assessments

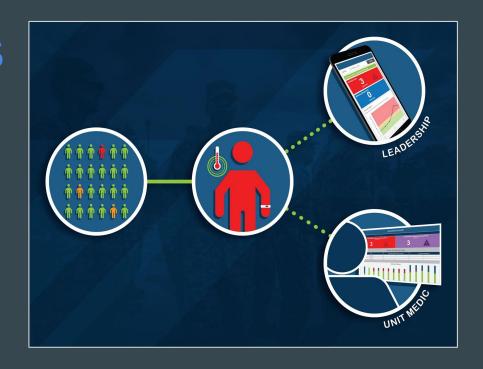


• Language of use in assessments

## Data Analysis

Evaluators

Assessments used



• What's required for effective evaluations

#### The "Box" of Evaluations

Static assessments



non-ASL signers

Artificial language environment

Snapshots of onetime incident of language development

### The "Box" of Evaluations

Dynamic assessments

Natural language environment



**ASL**signers

Videos of ongoing communication and language development

## Leaving You with This...

If a child cannot learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.

- Ignacio Estrada



