

# Diagnostics

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*Culturally Responsive Practices*

# Historical Perspective

Until the mid 1990s, little research on best practice for services to ELLs existed. Slps analyzed language skills and needs of ELLs within mainstream, middle-class, school oriented culture, most being monolingual speakers of standard American English- tests were only administered in English with some available in limited translation.

# Current Culturally Responsive Practice (CRP) Perspective

Communication skills are considered disordered if they deviate sufficiently from the norms and expectations of the *student's* speech community

# Culturally Responsive Practice for Disability Determination

As current determination of disability is based upon norms of the *client's* (student's) speech community, a new set of knowledge and skills is required. We must understand and have the skills to analyze the impact of second language acquisition and related factors.

(Review Part II of these guidelines)

# CRP for Determining Valid Referrals

- The slp must have a clear picture of the student's bilingualism across the domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing- for all languages
- Team members must not confuse characteristics that reflect normal and predictable stages of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) with characteristics of language or learning disorders
- Assess instructional programs, supports, teacher knowledge of SLA and ESL methods
- Consider all personal and individual factors influencing SLA and acculturation
- "Errors" in grammar and pronunciation are part of the process of learning English

# CRP for Determining Valid Referrals

- Teams often feel there is 'no harm' in special education referral, even with lack of supportive data
- Research shows that ELLs in special education (SLD) demonstrate lower verbal and full scale IQ after placement, than in initial evaluation
- Special education placement does not assure CRP instruction or sensitivity to SLA
- *Special education placement without a disability is inappropriate and illegal*