Incorporating a bilingual focus into the All Wales Speech Sound Pathway
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What we did

- All Wales Speech Sound Pathway 2013
- Includes information regarding
  - The expected trajectory of phonological development
  - Indicators for diagnosis of speech sound difficulties
- Needs to reflect the experiences of
  - Children who were being exposed to Welsh or Welsh and English
  - Children who were being exposed to English or Welsh as an additional language
Why we did it

- Normative data and diagnostic indicators related to the acquisition of English only
- Needed the pathway to reflect the socio-linguistic context of Wales
- The nature of phonological development is specific to the language(s) of exposure
- Exposure to two (or more) languages will alter the developmental trajectory for all languages involved
How we did it

- **Pathway diagram**
  - Assessment – all languages used by the child

- **Differential Diagnostic Descriptors**
  - Articulation difficulty – include those known to occur in Welsh
  - Phonological delay/disorder – indicate that expectation/patterns would be different depending on language(s) of the environment
  - Highlight the fact that patterns seen within bilingual acquisition may appear atypical when compared to monolingual English acquisition
How we did it

- Speech Sound Development reference chart for SLTs

- Booklet – additional section entitled ‘Influence of exposure to more than one language’
  - Development of the phonological system in the presence of two languages
  - Points to consider when planning intervention - language of therapy, goal setting for each language, expectations
What were the outcomes?

- A pathway that better reflects the experiences of children living in Wales
  - Welsh/English bilingualism captured
  - Highlights the fact that monolingual English acquisition norms/diagnostic descriptors may not be appropriate for the assessment of English speech production in a bilingual child

- Twilight session at Cardiff Met to launch the revised pathway
  - Further information on how phonological development is influenced by dual-language exposure