

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
 - Munro et al (2005) data added –two groups of Welsh-English bilingual children (Welsh dominant/English dominant)
- 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