

Cultural Competency in Speech Therapy: Bridging Communication Across Cultures

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ABSTRACT

With the current multicultural clinical landscape, cultural competency is not a supplementary skill but a core element of effective speech-language pathology. This presentation explores the role of cultural competency in enhancing communication outcomes and client engagement across diverse populations, particularly in the acute care setting. It will address cultural and linguistic variables—such as communication styles, beliefs about disability, and attitudes toward therapy—shape both assessment and intervention. Attendees will gain insight into evidence-based strategies for culturally responsive practice, including adapting standardized assessments, working with interpreters, and applying principles of cultural humility. Case examples will highlight common clinical challenges and practical solutions. The session also emphasizes the importance of ongoing professional development in cultural awareness to reduce disparities and promote equity in speech therapy services. Participants will leave with a toolkit of strategies to bridge communication gaps and foster inclusive, person-centered care in a culturally diverse clinical environment.