

## Resource and Material Review/ Évaluation des ressources

### *Developmental Speech Disorders* CD-ROM

Barbara L. Davis & Lisa M. Bedore

**Publisher:** *Plural Publishing, Inc.*

**Cost:** \$219.00 (CAD)

**Reviewer:** Janet P. Simpson, MS, S-LP(C)

**Affiliation:** Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and  
University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba

“**D**evelopmental Speech Disorders” is contained on one CD-ROM and is designed for classroom and clinical use. This resource has video segments that show typical development from age 0 to 4 years and mild, moderate, and severe disorders from ages 1 year to 8+ years.

The CD-ROM is easy to navigate, having buttons back to the main menu and to exit on each page. The main menu contains links to sections such as ‘topic page,’ ‘CD-ROM description,’ and ‘levels of severity.’ The manual is in PDF format and includes background information and descriptions of how to use the videos with S-LP students, other healthcare professionals, and families.

The manual contains a discussion about the need for a good understanding of typical speech acquisition in order to determine not only severity but also whether sound error patterns are indicative of a delay or a disorder. The need to look at severity based on a connected speech sample in addition to formal test scores is also discussed. The authors provide a description of different severity levels in terms of phonetic inventories; consonant, vowel, and syllable accuracy; and prosodic characteristics that occur in connected speech. The goal of the video case studies is to illustrate the factors to be considered when judging clinical severity.

The video case studies contain examples of spontaneous and elicited connected speech for children with mild, moderate, and severe speech disorders for ages 1–3 years, 3–5 years, 5–8 years, and 8+ years. For each video there are a number of clickable links, such as ‘diagnostic label,’ ‘case history information,’ ‘clinical profile,’ ‘additional communication disorders/delays,’ and ‘typical development comparison level.’ The videos can be compared to examples of typical speech development from infancy to age four. Transcripts of the clients with speech disorders are provided in the appendices.

The assessment section contains video examples that allow the user to complete a severity rating, which can then be compared to the authors’ clinical profile and developmental rating. Transcription sheets and sample homework assignments are provided in the appendices.

Speech-language pathology students can use the videos to practise describing speech delays and disorders, determine speech intelligibility, practise phonetic transcription (a framework is provided), and discuss assessment procedures needed to support a severity rating. The CD could also be used to support in-service training for clinical assistants and other health professionals. The videos would be useful for families who want more information about speech development and speech delays/disorders. Appendices 3 and 4 describe speech milestones, and Appendix 9 gives definitions of speech delays and disorders. These handouts would be useful for students, but I found them to be too technical to be used “as is” with families.

The video samples of typical development up to 24 months depict parent and child interactions. The samples from 24 to 48 months, as well as the samples of mild, moderate, and severe ratings, appear to be clinician and child interactions in clinic-based therapy sessions. All the videos are good examples of typical and delayed/disordered development. There are even examples using children with cochlear implants. While the therapy setting video samples are suitable for teaching undergraduate and graduate students, they do limit the usefulness for other professionals and family education. In my practice, I focus on helping parents learn to facilitate speech development in everyday interactions, so I would not show video samples of a clinical setting to families.

Overall, I find this resource very useful to support learning about developmental speech disorders at the university level. The authors provide ample documentation and additional reading references. A selection of the video samples would also be useful for other health professionals and families.

