



Language Assessment in Autism Beyond Childhood: Focus on Adolescents and Young Adults

Presented by: Teresa Girolamo, PhD

Delivery method: On-Demand

Instruction level: Intermediate

Sponsored by NCS Pearson, Inc.

Course Description

Effective assessment and service delivery requires understanding developmental norms, but there is little information on language in older autistic individuals. This session will present language assessment data from autistic adolescents and young adults, as well as considerations in interpreting this data to guide service delivery.

Learner Outcomes

After completing this learning track, participants will be able to:

1. List three obstacles to clinical language assessment for autistic adolescents and young adults
2. Identify how to interpret and use assessment data to guide service delivery

Time-Ordered Agenda

5 minutes	Introduction, disclosures & objectives
10 minutes	Background: Why language in autism?
10 minutes	Overview of linguistic heterogeneity in autism
10 minutes	Language profiles in older autistic individuals
10 minutes	Multimethod assessment and interpretation
10 minutes	Contextual factors and clinical implications
5 minutes	Wrap-up

About the Presenter

Teresa Girolamo is an Assistant Professor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University. She completed her PhD in Child Language at the University of Kansas. As a former special education teacher, her research interests involve language development and disorders. Her work is supported by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation and NIH. Her projects examine effective assessment for autistic adolescents and young adults varying in communication profiles and their experiences during the transition to adulthood.

Disclosure

Financial: Teresa Girolamo receives a salary as an employee of San Diego State University, grant funding from NIH (NIMHD U54MD012397; NIDCD R21DC021769), the Department of Education (H325K250117), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation (New Century Scholars Grant); a stipend from Pearson for presenting at the Autism Summit; and a stipend for serving as Editor-in-Chief at *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups* and as Associate Editor at the *Journal of Communication Disorders*.

Non-financial: Teresa Girolamo serves as the 2026 ASHA Convention Topic Committee Co-Chair for Considerations for Autistic and Neurodivergent Populations Across the Life Span, and is a member of the ASHA Journals Board, Society for Biological Psychiatry and Society for fNIRS Community Engagement Committees, and the Asian & Pacific Islander Speech-Language-Hearing Caucus Advisory Board.

NCS Pearson, Inc., the sponsor of this learning track, develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists. This offering will include information that pertains to the effective and appropriate use and interpretation of multimethod language assessment data in autistic adolescents and young adults to guide clinical decision-making and service recommendations.

References

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