

Question: Can I treat a bilingual child in therapy for an articulation disorder if I only assess his English articulation skills?

No. A child who is acquiring English as a second language will make errors in his pronunciation as he is going through the process. It is imperative that his articulation be assessed in his dominant language as well. If his articulation skills in the first language are within normal limits, he does not have an articulation disorder and should not be labeled as impaired. The errors noted in English are often the result of the native language's phonemic system. When English sounds do not exist in the first language, it is natural for the speaker to have greater difficulty articulating those sounds.

Resources:

Goldstein, B. (2000). *Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Resource Guide for SLPs*. Canada: Singular Thomson Learning.

Kayser, H. (1998). *Assessment and Intervention Resource for Hispanic Children*. Canada: Singular Thomson Learning.