

**Listening and Spoken Language
Skills
South Africa**

Professional Training

2015

INTRODUCTORY GUIDEBOOK

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Preamble

Current research, advances in hearing technology and professional education and training continue to drive clinical practice so that an increasing number of babies and infants who are deaf or hard of hearing, can learn to listen, process spoken language and communicate effectively using intelligible spoken language.

The main objective of all presentations in the course is to provide information and analytical guidance to professionals about the development of spoken language acquired primarily through listening in babies and infants who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The training over a one year period will cover a variety of topics related to the application of listening and spoken language interventions and auditory-verbal practice; current cochlear implant and acoustic technologies and models for successful treatment planning, delivery and evaluation. The training will also consider application of this approach in the South African context.

The topics will focus on the nine domains outlined by the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language (www.agbellacademy.org).

General Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of comprehensive auditory-verbal therapy and practice.
- Learn and be able to demonstrate techniques, strategies and procedures for helping babies, infants and young children who are hard of hearing to achieve maximum use of their auditory potential for developing the foundations of spoken conversation.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze a broad range of auditory-verbal activities in order to develop therapy targets in audition, speech, language, cognition, and communication.
- Develop and demonstrate skills in auditory-verbal treatment planning (goals, session targets, therapy, carry-over and future planning.)
- Learn the foundations of listening and spoken language interventions in relation to Auditory-Verbal Practice
- Understand paediatric aural (re)habilitation from the perspective of the Auditory-Verbal Approach
- Analyse both general and specific case studies involving children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in the therapy process
- Plan appropriate treatment goals and session targets in audition, speech, language, cognition and communication development.
- Engage in team dialogue to problem-solve and evaluate professional performance when working with children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, their families and teachers.
- Become knowledgeable about the required readings and materials.
- Participate in on-going professional development in auditory-verbal studies and practice.

Criteria for Interns

- Career professional in the field of speech-language pathology, audiology and/or the education of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.
- Currently working with children who are deaf and/or hard-of-hearing (Preference to those who work with babies, toddlers and pre-school children)
- Commitment to an intensive one-year training program with time to do the required work
- Commitment to attend contact sessions throughout the training course (to be discussed at the interview)
- Willingness to purchase core textbooks and course materials
- Ability to work as a team member
- Good time management skills
- Enthusiasm and passion for helping children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to learn to listen and talk
- Clinical experience and diagnostic skills
- Ability to provide feedback in a compassionate, honest manner
- Ability to guide, counsel and support parents as the primary models for listening and language development
- Positive attitude
- Sense of humour
- Have a minimum of one family with a child under the age of 4 years who will commit to weekly therapy following an auditory-verbal approach (it is preferable to work with more than one family).
- Be prepared to carry out assignments as presented
- Videotape the training sessions to be used for counseling and teaching by the trainer (access to technology to film and edit is essential)

Required Texts

The first two textbooks are essential reading:

1. Cole, E. & Flexer, C., (2007), *Children with Hearing Loss: Developing Listening and Talking: Birth to Six*: Plural Publishing, San Diego, CA.
2. Estabrooks, W. (Ed.), (2006), *Auditory-Verbal Therapy and Practice*: A. G. Bell, Washington, DC

The third text is not compulsory, but recommended:

3. Estabrooks, W. (Ed.), (2012), *101 Frequently Asked Questions About Auditory Verbal Practice*: A.G.Bell, Washington, DC (Also available as an e-book)

We will discuss how to access these materials once the course begins.

Other course materials and hand-outs will be required during the training.

Course Breakdown

- This one-year training programme has been accredited as a University of Stellenbosch short course. As such, it is worth 30 University credits, which means that each participant who is registered with the HPCSA will gain **30 CPD points** upon completion of the course.
- The **first set of lectures** will be at one national location, to be confirmed once applicants are selected. This will require participants to travel to the lecture venue during this time and will be conducted over 3-5 days.
- Following this, **additional lectures** will be conducted throughout the year. These will be based in regions, based on the location of the participants. For example, they may take place simultaneously in Johannesburg/Pretoria and Cape Town. There will be two sets of these lectures of 8 hours each. Dates to be confirmed.
- In addition, participants will be required to attend one-on-one or small group **mentoring sessions**, where they will be expected to analyse video clips of therapy, bring DVD clips of their own therapy, as well as participate in discussions, in order to build their clinical skills. Participants will be required to present a number of 5-minute DVDs of their own therapy, demonstrating various techniques and strategies, within these contact sessions. (Prior guidance and mentoring will be provided).

- Participants will also be required to complete a minimum of **2 additional distance DVD submissions** to their tutors for detailed constructive feedback on goal setting and therapy.
- There will be **2 clinical assignments** over the course of the year.
- There will be several **reading assignments** where participants will be required to read a chapter of the textbook or journal articles and answer related questions
- Finally, students will be required to achieve a **level of clinical competence** in their therapy and goal setting (demonstrated via DVDs above) in order to gain entrance to the exam. This **examination** will be the final course requirement in order to obtain the certificate in Listening and Spoken Language – South Africa.
- Participants will need to be able to travel to either Johannesburg/Pretoria or Cape Town for lectures during the year, and for some portion of the mentoring sessions. Additional mentoring may be done via Skype and/or email, if participants live far from their mentors.

Component	Time commitment
1 x National lecture series	32 hours (based on 8 hours over 4 days)
2 x Regional lectures	16 hours
Mentoring sessions, including DVD presentations	A minimum of 36 contact hours
Distance DVD submissions	A minimum of 2 submissions
Clinical assignments	2 individual assignments based on analysis of DVDs
Reading assignments	Several assignments in which you are expected to read and answer questions based on assigned material
Personal reading	You will be expected to read and study the written material and required textbooks in your own time
Examination & Final DVD	A written examination and final DVD presentation

- The overall cost for this one-year course is R7 500. This can be paid upfront or in two installments, with the first installment of R4 000 at the start of 2015, and the second in June 2015.

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Application Guidelines

To All Applicants

When applying for the Listening and Spoken Language Skills South Africa Training Programme, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Read all of the requirements carefully and request clarification in advance by contacting Dani Schlesinger at lsisouthafrica@gmail.com
- Make sure you have included **ALL** appropriate documentation
- Send your application package by email to lsisouthafrica@gmail.com by 31 October 2014
- Be required to attend an selection interview at the regional training centre in your area. These are likely to be held in November 2014.

Application Form

NAME:

ADDRESS:

HOME NO:

BUSINESS NO:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

QUALIFICATIONS (university degrees, undergraduate and graduate, other):

NUMBER OF YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:

CURRENT POSITION:

LETTER OF APPLICATION - Please attach (outlining your interests in applying for the training and your commitment to working in the field)

CURRICULUM VITAE WITH REFERENCE LETTERS - Please attach a current curriculum vitae complete with three reference letters (one professional reference from former/current supervisor AND two from parents with whom you have worked)

HOW DO YOU ENVISAGE THAT YOU WILL APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT YOU HAVE ACQUIRED ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE LISTENING AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE SKILLS TRAINING?

SIGNATURE:

DATE:
