

Assessment Considerations for Evaluating Children with Deafblindness and/or Low Incidence Disabilities Series Presented by Melinda Wolford, PhD

School assessment teams evaluate and identify students with disabilities. These assessments provide crucial information that drive the development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) specific to the needs of the child. Children who have a combined vision-hearing loss (deafblindness) and/or more complex delays or deficits present unique learning characteristics that create exceptional assessment challenges for the evaluation team. A student's needs may be masked by the severity of a vision-hearing loss or by concomitant multiple disabilities. *Assessment Considerations for Evaluating Children with Deafblindness and/or Low Incidence Disabilities* is designed to assist school psychologists, related services personnel, and evaluation team members in developing an intentional, individualized assessment plan needed to identify the unique intervention needs of the student with sensory deficits and/or multiple disabilities.

Speaker: Melinda Wolford, PhD, NCSP is an experienced school psychologist and neuropsychologist. She previously served as an assistant professor in school psychology and has expertise in assessment, intervention, parent training, staff development, and consultation.

Target Audience: School psychologists, intervention specialists, parents, speech-language pathologists, other related services providers, and agency personnel

Session Description: The four-session professional learning series covers information on planning for the assessment, strategies, and tools to assess children with vision-hearing loss and/or multiple disabilities. The date, title of the session, and learning objectives for each session are listed below. **All sessions will be held from 4:00 to 5:15 pm ET.** Participants may register for one or more of the sessions by clicking on the session's registration link.

Contact Hours: One contact hour (1) is available for each session.

Additional Information: Contact Lynne Hamelberg at lynne.hamelberg@uc.edu

Session 1: Assessment Techniques for Children with Vision-Hearing and/or Low Incidence Disabilities

Date: August 10, 2022

Learning Objectives:

1. Define role/s of the assessment team members in the evaluation process;
2. Identify assessment information needed to design an educational plan specific to the child's exceptional needs;
3. Consider methods to obtain assessment data in the areas of communication competence, social development, sensory interpretations, behavior and learning

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/assessmentSession1Aug102022>



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Session 2: Assessment Techniques for Children with Vision-Hearing Loss and/or Low Incidence Disabilities

Date: August 24, 2022

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss standardized tools to steer individualized assessment plan of action;
2. Consider assessment guides specifically designed for children with vision and/or hearing impairments and/or multiple disabilities;
3. Explore observation methods and philosophies to pinpoint specific skills and deficits for personalized intervention plans

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/assessmentSession2Aug242022>

Session 3: Assessment Techniques for Children with Vision-Hearing Loss and/or Low Incidence Disabilities with Average and Above Average Cognitive Skills

Date: September 7, 2022

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss standardized tools to steer individualized assessment design;
2. Explore modifications of current and available assessments to meet unique needs of the individual without compromising data;
3. Consider additional data gathering techniques to identify skills and deficits – both cognitive and educational - to assist in the design of the child's educational plan;
4. Discuss appropriate adaptations, accommodations, and modifications that can be implemented to instruction, class design and activities to meet specific and unique needs of the child;
5. Discuss methods to identify personal learning styles, interests and individual culture to ensure success with the educational plan

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/assessmentSession3sept72022>

Session 4: Behavior Assessment for Children with Vision-Hearing Loss and Multiple Disabilities

Date: September 21, 2022

Learning Objectives:

1. Explore evaluation approaches to assess and define functions of the child's behavior;
2. Investigate function/s of sensory-driven behaviors including sensory craving, sensory seeking, or sensory resisting responses;
3. Understand mode and function/s of communication driven behaviors;
4. Examine techniques and tools to gather data that better identifies the child's behavioral responses across settings, environments, and with various caretakers;
5. Discuss the array of observations methods to obtain a comprehensive picture of skills and behavioral responses

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/assessmentSession4sept212022>



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