

Overview of Narrative Assessment

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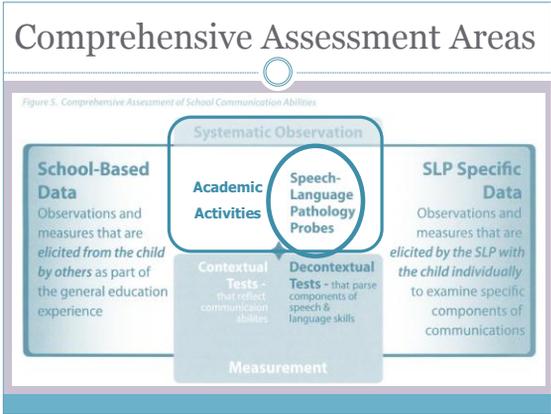
VDOE WEBINAR

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Benefits of Narrative Assessment

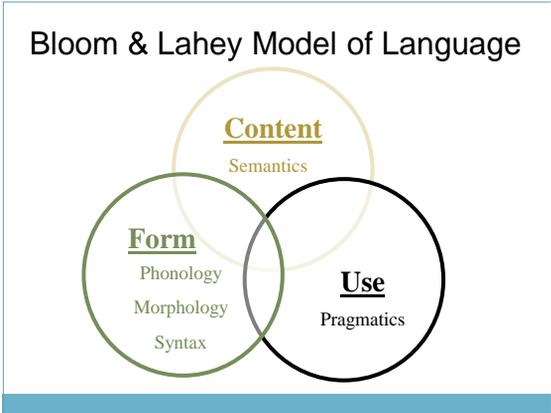
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- Aligns with VDOE Guidance on comprehensive assessment
- Provides systematic observation data that is considered an SLP probe in Virginia
- Examines functional skill required for school success



What Is Language?

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What is language?

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Language involves the ability to **integrate** knowledge of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics to create sentences and texts.

What is Narration?

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- Type of discourse involving orderly accounts of real or imagined events
- Coherent sequences of utterances with a common theme

Narratives Support Function

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- Cognitive benefits
 - Mode of thought
 - Long Term Memory
- Social benefits -
 - Social discourse (oral and written)
- Academic benefits
 - Classroom discourse
 - Related to reading comprehension
 - Ability to understand and learn from instruction in language arts, social studies, history, science, and mathematics

Narratives Are Important

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- Thinking
- Social development
- Bridge to literacy
- Classroom

Why Assess Narration?

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Narrative is a contextually relevant and pragmatically valid means of assessing a student’s ability to integrate language skills purposefully.

What Is A Narrative?

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Types of Narratives and Required Components

Types of Narratives (Genre)

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- Recounts
 - Elicited factual reports of past events
- Accounts (a.k.a. “personal narratives”)
 - Spontaneously produced verbalizations about past events
- Eventcasts
 - Descriptions of on-going or anticipated events
- Scripts
 - General descriptions of typical event
- Fictionalized Narratives (a.k.a. “Stories”)

Narrative Analysis

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Options for
Speech-Language Pathologists

Narrative Analysis

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The process for narrative analysis involves 3 steps:

1. Elicit
2. Transcribe
3. Analyze

Eliciting Narrative Samples

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- Narratives that differentiate between children with and without language impairment:
 - Personal Narratives in Conversation – (Hadley, 1998)
 - Story Creation
 - Wordless Picture Books (Berman & Sloban, 1994)
 - Picture Sequences
 - Single Pictures

Narrative Analysis

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Narratives may be analyzed by:

- 1. Macrostructure
 - o Story Grammar
 - o Episodic Complexity
- 2. Microstructure
 - o Cohesion (lexical level)
 - o Sentence Structure/Complexity (utterance level)
 - o Lexical Diversity/Complexity

Macrostructure Analysis

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- Setting
- Initiating Event
- Internal Response
- Plan
- Attempt
- Consequence
- Reaction
- Ending

Example of a Story

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Story Structure

Story = Setting + Episodic Structure

Setting: introduces the main characters, the protagonist, and the context of time and place

“There was a little girl. Her name was Lisa.”

Story Structure

Episodic Structure:

Initiating Event (IE): The occurrence that influences the main character(s) to action. Could be an internal event such as a thought, perception or wish.

“She got lost in a forest.”

Parts of Story Grammar

Episodic Structure:

Action (A): the actions of the main character in pursuit of the goal.

“She looked and looked until she saw a bird who told her to follow it, so she did.”

Parts of Story Grammar

Episodic Structure :

Consequence (C): the achievement (or not) of the goal, as well as any other events or states that might result.

“She finally got home.”

Webinar #2

**Macrostructure:
Analyzing Episodes**

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Microstructure Analysis

- Grammatical Complexity
- Story Ideas (propositions)
- Complexity of Vocabulary
- Cohesion
- Dialogue
- Creativity
- Literate language

Discriminating Measures

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Narratives may also be analyzed by:

- Type and Number of Story Grammar (SG) Propositions
- Total Number of Words or Utterances
- Grammatical Complexity
- Number of Different Words
- Holistic Scoring
- Grammatical Acceptability

Assessment Considerations

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The Impact of Culture, Socio-Economic Status, and Language Impairment

Cultural Similarities

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- Structural organization
 - Setting, goal, complications, resolution
- Referential elements
 - Characters, events, temporal & causal relationships
- Evaluative elements
 - Purpose, feelings, values, opinions

Cultural Differences

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- Narrative volume
- Contexts for social use
- Moral code
- Concern with authority
- Autonomy and self-determination
- Aggression
- Emotional expressiveness

Factors to Consider

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- Narrative skills development and performance may be impacted by:
- Experience with books/stories
 - Interest in topic
 - Experience with topic

Narrative Language Abilitites

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- Children with language impairment may exhibit:
- Comprehension Issues
 - Production Issues

Atypical Narrative Performance

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Abilities may vary because of:

- Home cultures that may value different types of narratives than the ones used in school.
- Limited experiences listening to and telling stories or with elaborative language.
- Poor language learners

Resources

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Guide to Narrative Language: Procedures for Assessment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hughes, McGillvray, & Schmidek ▪ 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Language Sampling with Adolescents</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marilyn Nippold ▪ Plural Publishing, 2010
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Additional Training

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- For more information on Narrative Assessment visit www.doe.virginia.gov
- Additional webinars are available on:
 1. Macrostructure : Analyzing Episodes
 2. Overview of Microstructure
