

analysis of speech production error. For example, phonological processes (single word & conversational levels); phoneme collapse
intelligibility (single word & conversational levels)

For children being referred due to their speech sound disorder, a copy of the most recent speech assessment form should be included. A general description of speech production should be included for children with developmental language disorder only.

Language

Receptive Language

A holistic psychology assessment process is required within 12 months of the SLP application closure date. The psychology report should include a description of the assessment results as well as relevant clinical observations, such as:

- the length of test administration time
- number of sessions over which the test was administered
- listening and attending behaviours
- fine motor skills
- social skills
- any frustration or avoidance behaviours, particularly for communicative tasks.

IQ scores must be supplied in an appendix to the psychology report, for review by the psychologist on the preschool SLP placement panel.

Addressing the eligibility and suitability criteria

The most appropriate assessment instrument will be determined by the psychologist.

Assessment instrument selection should take the following factors in to consideration:

- cultural and linguistic background of the child
- developmental history
- information from the speech pathologist about the nature of the child's speech and language

Audiology (essential)

Hearing thresholds need to be better than 35dB binaurally (ie under 35 decibels across a four- frequency average: 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz) or under 45dB if there is a unilateral loss.

Evidence of hearing assessment must have been completed within 12 months of referral.

A screening assessment by an allied health worker is adequate provided there is a copy of the child's audiogram.

If the assessment cannot be satisfactorily completed or the child shows evidence of a hearing loss, then a referral to an ENT/audiologist is required to clarify the nature of the child's hearing loss.