

# VBC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## Workshop

**Date**

February 28, 2024

**Title**

A systems approach for establishing effective speech production in learners with limited vocal verbal behaviors.

**Abstract**

Assessing and selecting speech targets can be challenging especially for non-speech language pathologists (SLP) or behavior analyst practitioners who may not have opportunities to collaborate with SLP, and who may not have ongoing or direct access to the expertise of an SLP. Speech sound production follows a physiological, phonological, and developmental continuum and is influenced and shaped by the environmental contingencies of the verbal community. This workshop provides a systems approach to understanding speech acquisition processes and hierarchy, analyzing and coding syllable structure combinations, selecting targets and establishing effective shaping procedures. Participants will leave this workshop with an increased understanding of the complex yet coordinated sequence of speech production, an appreciation of the need to collaborate with speech-language pathologists, and systems to implement that will guide practitioners in the analysis of speech sounds, selection of targets and shaping procedures.

**Learning Objectives**

After attending these presentations, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the speech acquisition processes.
2. Describe the decision-making hierarchy for selecting speech targets.
3. Identify at least two effective instructional procedures that promote speech sound accuracy and production.