

VBC 2025 Abstracts for Dr. Barbara Esch

Day 1

Intro to the Early Echoic Skills Assessment and Program Planner

In this 1-hour presentation, Dr. Esch will provide an overview of the new *Early Echoic Skills Assessment and Program Planner*. The discussion will introduce (a) the 3 processes involved in early speech development, (b) a descriptive hierarchy of echoic skills in terms of syllable complexity, (c) the EESA-R assessment format, and (d) reference materials for program planning. Emphasis will be on the role of echoic skills to support acquisition of other vocal verbal repertoires, such as mands, tacts, and intraverbals.

Day 2

Assessing Early Speech Learner Repertoires: The Role of Syllable Complexity

In this 1-hour presentation, Dr. Esch will discuss the components of syllable complexity and how/why these should be adjusted to increase vocal-verbal skills, depending on the learner's current repertoire. Examples of syllable complexity analysis will be provided, showing how this information is critical for appropriate target selection and sequencing for early speech learners.