

SLP CON

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 7

CONNECTING



Voices



REGION 4

2025 Region 4 Speech-Language Pathology Conference Schedule

Friday, November 7, 2025

Region 4, McKinney Conference Center

7200 Northwest Drive. Houston, TX 77092

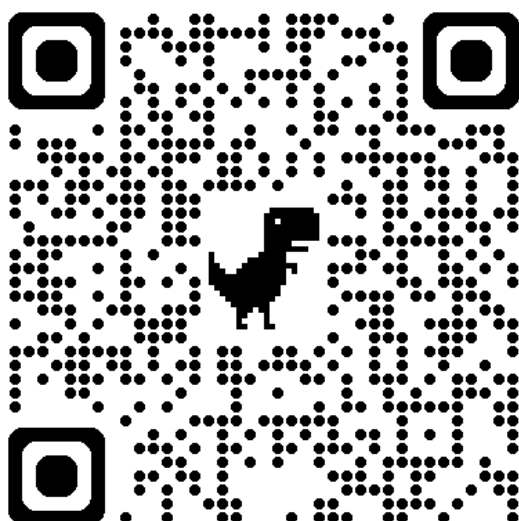
7:45 am - 8:30 am	Participant sign-in Light breakfast provided Vendor hall open to participants
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Keynote Address in 100 A-F "Tethered Together: Reflecting, Rebuilding and Reclaiming What Matters" Phuong Lien Palafox, M.S., CCC-SLP
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Snack Break in Vendor Hall (Room 101)
10:15 am - 11:45 am	Breakout Session 1
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Lunch provided Boxed sandwich selection
12:45 pm - 2:15 pm	Breakout Session 2
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Snack Break in Vendor Hall (Room 101)
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Breakout Session 3
4:00 pm	The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) form will be open until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14.

Session Handouts: bit.ly/SLPCON25



Link to CEU Form: bit.ly/SLPCONCEU

This form will open at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the conference and close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025. This form is required to receive a Region 4 Certificate of Attendance or to report CEUs to your ASHA registry. This form should only be completed once per participant.



Breakout Session 1

10:15 am - 11:45 am

Room	Title Speaker(s)	Description
100 A-F	Data Speaks: Writing Powerful PLAAFPs to Drive Student Success Hailey Gaida	This presentation highlights how qualitative data can be effectively and efficiently used to support meaningful decision-making throughout the IEP process. Emphasis will be placed on developing educationally aligned present-level statements, as well as goals and objectives that enhance student outcomes, while maintaining alignment with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) expectations.
103	Kaufman-Apraxia Bootcamp - Takeaways for Public School SLPs Mimi Branham	Kaufman-Apraxia Boot Camp (K-ABC) is a short-term, intensive intervention for children aged 3-6. During K-ABC, the children's goals are targeted through mass practice, as well as in carryover activities that utilize language strategies, movement, and music. This session proposes ways to adapt the boot camp methodology and apply its components in a public preschool setting.
104	Sound Solutions: Treatment Planning and Approaches for Bilingual Students Jacquilyn Arias	This session provides a practical framework for evaluating and treating bilingual children with speech sound disorders. We'll explore how to plan treatment that supports communication across both languages, even in cases where English is the primary language of instruction. Participants will review available assessments, learn how to make informed diagnostic decisions, and develop goals that reflect the child's full linguistic profile.
106	Six Dimensions of School-Based Leadership: A Guided Reflection for Current and Aspiring SLP Leaders Nathalie Lebrun & Judy Rich	Supervision in speech-language pathology demands innovative approaches that address the complex challenges facing both mentors and mentees. This session provides a comprehensive framework for transforming supervisory relationships through strategic, evidence-based interventions. Participants will explore the nuanced landscape of professional development, focusing on imposter syndrome and power dynamics, responsive guidance techniques, and accessible professional frameworks.

203	Bring Language to Life: Integrating Children's Books into Speech & Language Therapy Julie L. Barber-Bristol	Unlock the full potential of children's picture books in your therapy sessions. This practical and engaging course demonstrates how a single thoughtfully chosen book can serve as a comprehensive tool for targeting a wide range of speech and language goals. Participants will learn how to embed speech sound practice into natural story contexts, while simultaneously addressing key language areas such as syntax, vocabulary, comprehension, and narrative development.
204	Hot Topics in AAC: Addressing Real-World Communication Needs Kim Richards	This session is designed for school-based speech-language pathologists seeking to deepen their understanding of current and emerging practices in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). SLPs will explore how they can promote autonomy, authentic communication, and meaningful language development.
205	Dismissal from Speech Therapy Services in the Public School Setting: Crucial and Ongoing Conversations Angelia Daniel	For many public-school speech-language pathologists, dismissing a student from speech therapy services is often met with challenges, opposition, and resistance. This presentation will equip public school speech-language pathologists with effective resources and best practices for facilitating student dismissal. By doing so, we aim to reduce resistance, address misconceptions, and cultivate a positive and celebratory mindset surrounding dismissal from speech therapy services.
207	Mentoring: The Key to Staffing Kristen Thomson & Kathryn Davies	This session will equip participants to define the roles and responsibilities of SLP mentors and identify key differences in mentoring graduate students versus clinical fellows. The presenters will discuss effective mentorship strategies, share tools and resources, and explore real-world case examples.

Breakout Session 2

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

Room	Title Speaker(s)	Description
100 A-F	Chew on This: What Really Works in School-Based Feeding Jennifer Hartis	This presentation will provide speech-language pathologists with a comprehensive overview of an established approach to addressing dysphagia in the public-school setting. It will cover key components, including team development, completing swallowing and feeding evaluations, collaborating with interdisciplinary professionals to ensure student safety and adequate nutrition for educational benefit, and completing the necessary documentation to keep your district compliant.
103	Symbolic Communication Starts Here: Using Calendar Systems to Build Language and Literacy Brenna Brillhart & Kaycee Bennett	Students with complex access needs, including those who are deafblind, often require individualized, multi-sensory approaches to develop symbolic communication. This session will explore how SLPs can support students in using concrete symbols as a bridge toward abstract symbol use. The session will emphasize honoring sensory access, recognizing symbolic intent, and designing communication systems that grow with the learner.
104	Quick Story, Big Impact: Language Sampling That Connects to the Classroom Jacquilyn Arias	Struggling to make your evaluations both efficient and meaningful? Narrative language sampling is a time-saving, evidence-based tool that supports clearer diagnostic decisions while connecting directly to classroom demands. Whether you're new to language sampling or looking to streamline your current approach, this session offers frustration-free strategies that support accurate identification and strong school-based service planning.
106	Strong Voices, Stronger Connections: A Speed Networking Experience Nathalie Lebrun & Judy Rich	Strong professional networks don't happen by accident—they're built through intentional conversations, shared purpose, and the courage to connect. In this interactive session, school-based speech-language pathologists, assistants, and related professionals will explore practical strategies for introducing themselves clearly, asking questions that spark dialogue, and building authentic professional relationships.

203	Beyond the Basics: Supporting Adolescents with Language Impairments in Secondary Settings Alex Trevino	This session addresses the critical gap in professional development and resources for serving adolescents with language disorders and highlights the shift in linguistic demands as students transition from elementary to secondary education. Drawing on the work of Barbara Ehren, Marilyn Nippold, and ASHA's position statements, we will explore evidence-based practices that support language intervention at the secondary level, specifically with addressing the complex cognitive and linguistic demands across academic and social contexts and considering how to adjust intervention and service delivery models to most appropriately and effectively support older students.
204	Empowering Literacy Through Language: The SLP's Role in Comprehensive Literacy for AAC Users Kim Richards	This dynamic professional development session is designed specifically for school-based speech-language pathologists seeking to support emergent and conventional AAC users in developing meaningful, functional literacy skills. Grounded in the belief that every student can learn to read and write, this session explores how SLPs can implement evidence-based practices in direct therapy to promote literacy access for students with complex communication needs.
205	Am I Doing This Right? Impostor Syndrome Among School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists Sierra Arceneaux	The impostor phenomenon, often referred to as impostor syndrome, is a psychological phenomenon in which individuals doubt their achievements and fear being exposed as a "fraud" despite external evidence of competence. This phenomenon can have a negative impact on self-esteem, leading to self-doubt and eroding confidence in one's skills. This presentation aims to identify the prevalence and common characteristics of the impostor phenomenon, discuss its contributing factors, and develop strategies to assist speech-language pathologists in overcoming these challenges.
207	Tiny Talkers: Developing Effective Communication Skills in Early Childhood: Strategies for Preschool Learners Lindsey West & Margaret Wickert	This comprehensive session will explore all aspects of preschool speech and language therapy, whether delivered as part of a 2-hour early childhood intervention program or within a 30-minute therapy session. By the end of this session, attendees will have acquired actionable strategies to create engaging, developmentally appropriate therapy sessions that cater to the diverse needs of preschoolers and their families.

Breakout Session 3

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Room	Title Speaker(s)	Description
100 A-F	Support, Who Doesn't Need It? The Importance of Support Groups for Students Who Stutter and Their Families Jennifer Hartis & Jennifer Broad	Visualize a place where people who stutter can come together, share their experiences in coping with stuttering, celebrate their successes, gain support in facing their challenges, and simply not have to worry about whether other people will listen to them when they speak. Participating in a self-help/support group event is one of the most important experiences that people who care about stuttering can have.
103	From Struggle to Strength: The Power of SLP Services Susan Langlois	Discover the challenges, causes, and consequences of hearing loss in school-aged children. Plus, surprising advice on helping these youngsters find a pathway to success, from a deaf person who talks the talk, walks the walk, and lives through it.
104	From Cover to Conversation: Picture Books that Spark Speech - Bilingual Edition Dinesha Stanley	Discover the power of picture books as a bridge to meaningful, relevant speech and language therapy for bilingual learners. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore how to select and use bilingual picture books to target a variety of speech and language goals. This supports vocabulary, storytelling, and expressive language in bilingual learners. This session will help turn every page into a powerful conversation starter.
106	Future Ready Communication: Outcomes-Based Therapy for Teens and Young Adults Nathalie Lebrun & Judy Rich	Designing therapy for teens and young adults with communication disorders requires more than curriculum alignment—it demands real-world relevance. In this practical, interactive session, participants will learn how to use an outcomes-based framework to support secondary and post-secondary students in achieving meaningful communication goals aligned with their educational, social, and transition plans.

203	Bye Bye Bye: Knowing When It's Time to Dismiss from Speech Therapy Alex Trevino	Dismissing a student from speech therapy services should be a decision that the ARD committee approaches gradually and is grounded in data, identified functional outcomes, and regulatory guidance. This session explores how to “begin with the end in mind” by setting clear, measurable goals from the start of services that align with dismissal criteria outlined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
204	Standards-Based Goal Writing for AAC Users Kim Richards	Writing meaningful, standards-aligned goals for AAC users can be challenging—but it's essential for promoting access to the general curriculum and high expectations for all learners. This session will guide educators and related service providers in writing functional, measurable goals rooted in the vertical alignment of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Participants will explore how to use the TEKS as a foundation to craft developmentally appropriate, communicatively relevant, and tailored goals for students using AAC.
205	Solving the SLP Shortage: Lessons from 300+ Interviews with Hiring Teams and Decision Makers Sharon Rice	The national shortage of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) continues to strain healthcare and educational systems, yet some organizations are breaking the mold with innovative hiring and retention strategies. In this session, we go beyond the headlines to share what's actually working—and what's not—when it comes to attracting and retaining SLPs.
207	Mastering Task Organization with Microsoft Planner Kayla Howard	Feeling buried under referrals, evaluations, ARD meetings, and the daily wave of paperwork, scheduling, and compliance tasks? You're not alone. Managing it all can be overwhelming—but there's a powerful, free tool already at your fingertips: Microsoft Planner. Walk away with ready-to-use templates, your own personalized plans, and the know-how to collaborate effectively with your campus teams. * It is recommended that participants bring a laptop or tablet for access to Microsoft 365.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY

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SLP Resources

January 6—Children Who Stutter

March 16—Spoken and Written Language

June 3—Speech Sound Disorders

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REGION **4**

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY *Webinar Series*

FREE, LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS ON FRIDAYS
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM



September 12, 2025

**Navigating Ethical Landscapes:
A Map for SLPs**

November 14, 2025

**Pixels, Play, and Progress:
Harnessing Digital Tools to Support
Communication Growth**

January 23, 2026

**Speech Impairment:
Legal and Ethical Updates**

April 10, 2026

**Cracking the Behavior Code:
Strategies for Success**

June 12, 2026

**The Autistic Brain: Better
Understanding = Better Outcomes**

October 17, 2025

**Enhancing Executive Functions in
Students: A Collaborative Approach**

December 12, 2025

**Collaborative Models for Comprehensive
Literacy: Bringing Meaningful Literacy
Instruction to AAC Users**

February 13, 2026

**Addressing Behavior, Language, and
Learning for Children with Traumatic
Experience**

May 22, 2026

**Fun & Engaging Therapy Ideas Through
Purposeful Play / Breaking Up is Hard to Do:
Dismissal from Speech-Language Therapy**

July 17, 2026

**Ethical Autism Services: Contemporary
Research, Lived Experiences & The
Neurodiversity Paradigm**

REGISTER



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**EACH SESSION IS OFFERED FOR
3 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FROM THE
TEXAS SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (TSHA).**



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST?

Tell them about the Texas Woman's University Master's
Degree Distance Venue through Region 4!

For more information, visit bit.ly/SLPTWU
or contact beth.darbe@esc4.net

Special Thanks to the SLP Conference Planning Committee

- ★ Erinn Hengst, Katy ISD
- ★ Hailey Gaida, YES Prep Public Schools
- ★ Jennifer Hartis, Deer Park ISD
- ★ Karran Morris, Crosby ISD
- ★ Keeva Price, Houston ISD
- ★ Kelly Mock, Cypress Fairbanks ISD
- ★ Megan Cockrill, Spring Branch ISD

Snacks and Beverages Provided by our Valued Vendors and Sponsors

- Amplio Learning
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- Spark Innovations
- Super Duper Publications
- Tobii Dynavox

Enjoying the conference?

Tag us on social media for a chance to win a door prize!

@R4SpecialEd
#R4SLPCON



Save the date for next year's SLP CON!

Friday, November 6, 2026