

Abstract Title:-

Assessment of Children with Severe Language Disorders and Compromised Communication Skills

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Yaser Al Sabi (CCC-SLP) – Cochlear Arabia, Saudi Arabia



Abstract:

This practical workshop equips speech-language pathologists and educators with effective strategies to assess children with significant communication challenges, including non-speaking and minimally verbal individuals. Moving beyond traditional standardized testing, the session highlights functional, multi-method assessment approaches that provide a more accurate picture of a child's real-world communication abilities.

Participants will learn how to identify stages of communicative intent and apply dynamic, alternative assessment techniques tailored to complex cases. The workshop emphasizes the importance of structured observation, communication sampling, and caregiver collaboration as essential components of a holistic assessment process.

Through real-world methods and guided frameworks, attendees will be able to develop an assessment plan that prioritizes functional communication outcomes while actively involving key stakeholders in the child's environment.

Keywords:

Assessment, Children, Severe Language Disorders, Compromised Communication, Functional Communication

Learning Objectives

- Identify the limitations of traditional assessment methods for children with severe language disorders and compromised communication skills.
- Apply at least three alternative assessment strategies to profile a child's communication strengths and needs.
- Construct an assessment plan that prioritizes functional communication and stakeholder collaboration.
- Differentiate between psychometric and descriptive approaches to assessment.

Short Professional Biography:

Dr. Yaser Al Sabi is the Rehabilitation Manager – Middle East, Russia, Turkey & Africa (MERTA) at Cochlear Arabia. He previously served as Director of Al Zamil Center for Speech and Hearing (2024–2026) and held academic leadership roles as Director of the Master Program in Speech-Language Pathology and the Bachelor Program in Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences at Dar Al-Hekma University, Jeddah. Dr. Al Sabi earned his PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Howard University (Washington DC, USA) in 2007, and holds two master's degrees in the same field from Jordan and the USA. He is a bilingual ASHA-certified Speech-Language Pathologist (CCC-SLP).