



2026

SPRING BEST PRACTICES

DISTRICT SEMINAR

MARCH 13, 2026 | KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY | KENNESAW, GA



CEU CREDIT & HANDOUTS – GO SSLP Goes Green!

CEU attendance and session evaluations will be managed electronically.

Satisfactory Completion Requirements: In order to claim ASHA CEUs, you must check in at the registration desk and complete an evaluation for each course no later than March 29, 2026. ASHA CEUs will not be awarded for sessions with evaluations completed after this date. Handouts for sessions will be provided online at www.gosslp.org and via email.

THE KSU CENTER

Best Practices will be held at the KSU Center at 3333 Busbee Pkwy, Kennesaw, GA. The KSU Center has a dedicated parking lot at the listed address, with parking provided at no cost.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the conference will be held with the possibility of a delayed start time. Check www.gosslp.org as well as the email provided at registration for up-to-date information the morning of the conference. Registration refunds will not be provided.

CLASSROOM SEATING

Seating in all sessions is on a first-come, first-served basis.

PROVIDED MEALS

Breakfast will be provided for all attendees. Lunch is available as an add-on within the registration form. If attendees do not register for the lunch add-on, they will be responsible for providing their own lunch.

ASHA BROCHURE

To access the ASHA Brochure for the 2026 Spring Best Practices, please [click here](#).

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30 am Breakfast & Exhibitor Visitation

8:30 - 9:30 am All the Data, All the Voices: How SLPs Collaborate to Inform Eligibility and Specialized Instruction for Neurodiverse Students (0.1 CEU)

Michelle Clevenger, EdD, CCC-SLP

Speech Program Specialist, Cobb County School District

9:30 - 10:00 am Break & Exhibitor Visitation

10:00 - 11:30 am Tips for the Trickiest Sound Errors: Distorted R and Lateral Lisps (0.15 CEU)

Meredith Avren, MEd, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist, Peachie Speechie

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch & Exhibitor Visitation

12:30 - 2:00 pm Unlocking the Difference: Therapy vs. Compensatory Services Explained (0.15 CEU)

Jill Barton, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist, Atlanta Public Schools

2:00 - 2:30 pm Break & Exhibitor Visitation

2:30 - 3:30 pm Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech Therapy (0.1 CEU)

Kevin Simmons, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Therapist, Prosper Therapy Services

The Singing SLP

Tips for the Trickiest Sound Errors: R Distortions and Lateral Lisps (0.15 CEU)

Meredith Avren, MEd, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
Peachie Speechie

Meredith Avren is an ASHA-certified pediatric speech-language pathologist, author, and speaker. She specializes in speech sound disorders, with a focus on R sound errors. As the founder of Peachie Speechie, Meredith has created popular workbooks and shares therapy tips through social media and her YouTube channel.



Presentation Description

Feel more confident treating the trickiest sound errors! R distortions and lateral lisps can be challenging to treat, but in this 90-minute presentation, you will learn how to make it fun, effective, and engaging for your students. From foundational concepts to enjoyable therapy activities, this presentation should leave you feeling ready to plan your next session. Attendees will see video demonstrations and leave with practical tips they can apply immediately in clinical practice.

Learning Objectives

- List the articulatory requirement for the R sound.
- Describe 3 techniques to elicit an R sound.
- List 2 techniques to encourage correct tongue placement in children with lateral lisps.

Unlocking the Difference: Therapy vs. Compensatory Services Explained (0.15 CEU)

Jill Barton, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
Atlanta Public Schools

Jill Barton has spent the last 25 years working in various settings across the United States, including public schools, pediatric rehabilitation, higher education, and private practice. She is currently working in Atlanta Public Schools. She has presented nationally, regionally, and locally on various topics, including School-Based issues, Private Practice, & Leadership. She previously served as the President of the Georgia Speech Language Hearing Association in 2015, the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) as a Coordinating Committee Member of ASHA SIG 11 for Administration & Supervision, and as the Chair of the 2020 & 2023 ASHA Connect Schools Poster Selection Committee. Jill currently serves on the GSHA Executive Board as ASHA's State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL) for Georgia, the GSHA Strategic Planning Chair, and ASHA's Council of Academic Accreditation (CAA) Practitioner Site Visitor Team Member.

Presentation Description

Help me, I'm new here! I have over 55 students on my caseload roster! How am I going to serve these many students? Where am I going to find extra time in the schedule to provide the extra services my students are entitled to, since they have been without an SLP? The school-based Speech Language Pathologist works hard with each student to achieve success, but when new caseloads are acquired, each student may need makeup or compensatory IEP minutes. This session will examine the definitions of makeup time and compensatory time, explore and discuss case law and state requirements, and provide activities for participants to collaborate with peers using various scenarios.

Learning Objectives

- The learner will list the difference between makeup time and compensatory time.
- The learner will be able to summarize specific case law and state requirements in relation to makeup and compensatory time.
- The learner will describe situations in which to best support students with makeup vs. compensatory time.

All the Data, All the Voices: How SLPs Collaborate to Inform Eligibility and Specialized Instruction for Neurodiverse Students (0.1 CEU)

Michelle Clevenger, EdD, CCC-SLP
Speech Program Specialist
Cobb County School District



Michelle is a speech program specialist for the Cobb County School District, with 20 years of experience in many areas including pediatric and adult medical settings and various school settings. Michelle has a bachelor's degree from Miami University in Ohio, a master's degree from University of Central Florida, and a doctorate degree from American College of Education. Michelle's passion is neurodiversity and collaborating with other professionals in the schools to ensure students are provided with exemplary speech services.

Presentation Description

Eligibility decisions are strongest when they reflect the whole student rather than a single test score or isolated observation (ASHA, n.d.). This presentation explores how speech-language pathologists thoughtfully gather, analyze, and synthesize multiple sources of data to inform both eligibility and specialized instruction decisions for neurodiverse students (ASHA, n.d.). Participants will examine how formal and informal assessment results, classroom performance, teacher input, parent perspectives, and interdisciplinary collaboration collectively support sound clinical judgment and defensible decision-making for neurodiverse students (IDEA, 2004; Etscheidt & Bartlett, 2019). Emphasis is placed on the SLP's role within the multidisciplinary team, including collaboration with school psychologists, general and special education teachers, and families to ensure decisions are educationally relevant, legally sound, and instructionally meaningful for neurodiverse students (ASHA, n.d.; Friend & Cook, 2017). Practical examples and guided discussion highlight how comprehensive data and diverse voices guide eligibility determinations and shape individualized, appropriate instructional support for students (Yell et al., 2017).

Learning Objectives

- Analyze and integrate multiple sources of assessment and evaluation data (e.g., formal and informal measures, classroom performance, teacher and parent input) to support comprehensive eligibility and specialized instruction decisions, consistent with ASHA's guidance on evidence-based assessment and clinical decision-making for neurodiverse students.
- Demonstrate the speech-language pathologist's role in collaborative, multidisciplinary decision-making by applying effective consultation and collaboration practices with school psychologists, general and special education teachers, and families to ensure eligibility determinations are educationally relevant and legally defensible for neurodiverse students.
- Apply professional judgment within the scope of speech-language pathology practice to synthesize assessment data and interdisciplinary input in order to develop individualized, appropriate instructional recommendations and supports aligned with student needs and educational outcomes for neurodiverse students.



Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech Therapy (0.1 CEU)

Kevin Simmons, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Therapist, Prosper Therapy Services
The Singing SLP

Kevin Simmons is a pediatric speech therapist located in North Georgia. Along with providing pediatric services, he is a sensory barber for kids that have difficulty with haircuts. With passions for music and movements, Kevin provides a unique approach to speech therapy.

Presentation Description

Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech explores the powerful intersection between music, sensory regulation, and communication development. This session introduces participants to research-backed strategies that integrate rhythm, melody, movement, and sensory input into speech therapy practices. Attendees will gain insight into how musical elements stimulate neural pathways related to speech and language, and how sensory-based techniques can support emotional regulation, attention, and engagement—especially in neurodivergent and pediatric populations.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the neurological and developmental benefits of music and sensory integration in speech therapy.
- Demonstrate at least three music-based and three sensory-based strategies that support communication goals.
- Develop a plan to incorporate music and sensory tools into current therapy practices in a functional, evidence-based way.

THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS!



Cherokee
County
School
District



prc-salttillo





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SAVE THE DATE!

Keep an eye out for all of GO SSLP's upcoming events in 2026!

- 2026 Fall District Seminar | September 18, 2026 | UGA Center – Athens, GA
- 2026 Fall Virtual Best Practices | October 1 – 31, 2026 | Self-Study Program

