

Cognate Therapy for Bilingual Children Using Academic Vocabulary Words: A Tutorial

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Context

- SLPs work with a variety of populations.
- Utilizing cognate awareness and morphological awareness can promote academic vocabulary growth in Spanish-English Bilingual Students.
 - This transfers to increased overall reading ability and academic success.

Background

- Cognates are words that are similar in production and meaning in two languages (Grasso et al., 2018).
 - There are between 10,000-15,000 cognates in Spanish & English; 1/3 of academic words are cognates.
- Morphological awareness is understanding how words can be broken down into smaller units.
 - It has reciprocal interactions with reading and spelling (Manolitsis et al., 2019).

Cognate Examples

Adapt	Adaptar
Sequence	Secuencia
Calculate	Calcular

Instructional Strategies to Enhance Cognate Awareness

- Cognate awareness should include: Multiple exposures of the word (in both languages, multimodal representation including: writing, drawing connections between words and lived experiences, phonological strategies of syllable segmentation and rehearsal, and making connections to words (Butler et al., 2010; German, 2002; Hougen, 2014).

Suggestions for SLPs

- If you are a monolingual SLP:
 - Teach the words in your language.
 - Collaborate with a paraprofessional or someone in the building who speaks the other language.
 - After learning the vocabulary, model it for students or use a video.
- If you are a bilingual SLP:
 - Select a language to teach the intervention.
 - Teach the words first in one language then the other; draw connections between the words (Skonka, 2020).

Cognate Intervention Related to Reading Success

- Become more aware of cognates in other contexts, boost overall academic vocabularies, gain awareness of morphemes and how they play a role in non-targeted words (Manatolis et al., 2019).
- Morphological awareness is a predictor to reading comprehension and vocabulary development in bilinguals (Ramirez et al., 2013).

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