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ASSOCIATION

Clinical Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology

Ad Hoc Committee on Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology

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About This Document

This position statement is an official policy of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. It was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology. Members of the committee were Lisa O'Connor (chair), Christine Baron, Thalia Coleman, Barbara Conrad, Wren Newman, Kathy Panther, and Janet E. Brown (ex officio). Brian B. Shulman, vice president for professional practices in speech-language pathology (2006–2008), served as the monitoring officer. This document was approved by the Board of Directors on March 12, 2008.

Position Statement

The position statement *Clinical Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology* was approved in 1985. This new position statement updates that document with respect to the profession of speech-language pathology. Although the principles of supervision are common to both professions, this position statement addresses only speech-language pathology because of differences in pre-service education and practice between the two professions.

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that clinical supervision (also called clinical teaching or clinical education) is a distinct area of practice in speech-language pathology and that it is an essential component in the education of students and the continual professional growth of speech-language pathologists. The supervisory process consists of a variety of activities and behaviors specific to the needs, competencies, and expectations of the supervisor and supervisee, and the requirements of the practice setting. The highly complex nature of supervision makes it critically important that supervisors obtain education in the supervisory process. Engaging in ongoing self-analysis and self-evaluation to facilitate the continuous development of supervisory skills and behaviors is fundamental to this process. Effective supervision facilitates the development of clinical competence in supervisees at all levels of practice, from students to certified clinicians. Clinical supervision is a collaborative process with shared responsibility for many of the activities involved in the supervisory experience. The supervisory relationship should be based on a foundation of mutual respect and effective interpersonal communication. Clinical supervisors have an obligation to fulfill the legal requirements and ethical responsibilities associated with state, national, and professional standards for supervision.