



## Appendix A:

### **SACIG Guidelines for Speech-Language Therapists working with Children with Cochlear Implants who choose an oral outcome/approach to therapy**

The Re/Habilitation Practitioner must have a degree in Speech-Language Therapy or be a qualified Teacher or Audiologist. Speech-Language Therapists and Audiologists must hold professional registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. The Speech-Language Therapist, Teacher or Audiologist providing habilitation/rehabilitation must have additional postgraduate training in rehabilitation with children with hearing loss and should have knowledge and skills in the therapy approaches that promote listening and spoken language in this population. It is recommended that the Re/Habilitation Practitioner obtain certification in Auditory Verbal Therapy or training in promoting listening and spoken language skills from an accredited, or SACIG-approved training programme. This additional specialisation supports optimal outcomes for the children on their caseload. Certification or training opportunities may be sought through –

1. LSLS Cert AVT / LSLS certAVEd through the AGBell Association (<https://agbellacademy.org/certification/>)
2. Listening and Spoken Language Specialist South African (LSLS SA) Course presented by Stellenbosch University between 2010-2021.
3. Auditory Verbal UK Foundation Course (<https://www.avuk.org/part-1-working-through-audition>)
4. Auditory Verbal UK Advanced Auditory Principles in Everyday Practice (<https://www.avuk.org/part-2-auditory-principles-in-everyday-practice>)
5. MedEI Accreditation Course ([Roelien.Needham@medel.com](mailto:Roelien.Needham@medel.com))
6. Hearing First (<https://www.hearingfirst.org/learn-and-connect/for-professionals>)
7. Any other AGBell Accredited institute of Certified LSLS Cert AVT/AVEd mentoring

Should this not be possible within the context of the cochlear implant programme, the professional that offers rehabilitation/habilitation should then consult on a regular basis with a LSLS-certified AVT or therapist who has additional training in LSLS principles (the SACIG Paediatric Task Team can be contacted for a list of names of professionals in the specific area).

It is recommended that the Re/Habilitation Practitioner is a member of or maintains very close contact with a Cochlear Implant Team and engages in regular communication with the child's MAPping audiologist, as well as participating in team meetings and patient discussions. Should the Practitioner not be a member of a Cochlear Implant team, it is essential that she/he consult on a regular basis with an experienced Speech and Language Therapist /Audiologist who is a member of a Cochlear Implant Team and working in the field of Habilitation of children with hearing loss.

The Practitioner is expected to provide ongoing, intensive therapy to the child, with active involvement of the primary caregiver in the therapy.

Listening checks of all devices worn to ensure optimal hearing throughout the frequency range, should be conducted prior to every therapy session. The Re/Habilitation Practitioner will need to work in close collaboration with the MAPping audiologist to ensure optimal access to sound.

The Re/Habilitation Practitioner should liaise regularly with the family, school and other stakeholders working with the child. This is particularly important in the case of children with additional difficulties, challenges, or other diagnoses, where close communication and joint goal setting with the team and family are essential.

The Re/Habilitation Practitioner is expected to identify possible red flags (Please refer to **Appendix L**) in the children with whom she/he is working, and to communicate concerns to the team on an ongoing basis.

The expectation will be that this practitioner will provide written feedback on progress for monthly CI meetings or provide 6 monthly progress reports to the CI team.

In the case of a child not making expected progress, it is particularly important that an LSLS / AV specialist Re/Habilitation practitioner as well as the managing audiologist be consulted. In addition, the Re/Habilitation Practitioner is expected to participate actively in continued professional development in the field of cochlear implants and in promoting listening and spoken language in children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

SACIG Guidelines for Speech-Language Therapists working with children in the field of cochlear implants should be adhered to.

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