

Deep Dive Session B

The Goal is Understandable Speech



Libby Kumin, Professor Emeritus, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD

What makes speech difficult to understand? How can we help children with Down syndrome develop speech that is easier to understand? There are many factors that affect speech intelligibility in children and adults with Down syndrome but the occurrence, severity, and combination of factors are different for each person. Dr. Kumin will present a framework that can be used for identifying, analyzing, and treating the factors that affect

speech intelligibility for your child, e.g. rate, articulation, oral motor skills and childhood apraxia of speech. The Kumin Factors in Intelligibility Assessment and Treatment Forms (KFIA and KFIT) will be included. Attendees will learn how to write IEP goals that target factors affecting speech intelligibility in your child and how to develop a home-school communication plan as part of the IEP process. Resources and strategies and materials for home activities to practice speech skills will be included.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Present a framework for identifying factors that affect speech intelligibility in children and adolescents with DS.
2. Learn how to use the Kumin Intelligibility Assessment and Treatment Forms.
3. Learn how to write IEP goals to address issues that relate to speech intelligibility in your child with DS from birth to adulthood. Learn how to work with SLPs to understand evaluation and treatment of the individual factors that affect speech intelligibility difficulties.

About the Speaker:

Libby Kumin is Professor Emeritus of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at Loyola University Maryland. Since 1968, she has worked with families of children with communication disorders. She specializes in communication, speech, and language skills of infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and adults with Down syndrome. Her books, *Early Communication Skills in Children with Down Syndrome*, and talks have helped families, speech-language pathologists, classroom teachers, and special educators. Her research has led to increased understanding and practical clinical techniques to address the complex communication strengths and challenges people with Down syndrome face. Dr. Kumin has received the Christian Pueschel Memorial Research Award, Meritorious Service and Exceptional Meritorious Service Awards from the National Down Syndrome Congress. Dr. Kumin is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*, and *Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century*. She is an active clinician, teacher, researcher and scholar whose heart shines through her work.