

***Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services (2nd ed.)***

Else Hamayan, Barbara Marler,  
Cristina Sanchez-Lopez, and Jack Damico  
Philadelphia: Caslon, 2013. 285 pp.

Joya Carter-Hicks

Kennesaw State University, University System of Georgia

“RTI approaches can benefit all students by providing timely support in the classroom as identified. If employed appropriately and carefully in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner, RTI can also introduce high-quality instruction into general education classrooms across the grades” (Hamayan, Marler, Sanchez-Lopez, & Damico, 2013, p. 69).

**In their book** *Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services*, Hamayan, Marler, Sanchez-Lopez, and Damico offer Response to Intervention (RTI) as a comprehensive framework for providing effective academic support for English language learners (ELLs), while establishing the use of innovative methods for gathering data on students within contextualized environments. This book guides educators in how to establish appropriate scientific, evidence-based interventions, progress monitoring, and ongoing assessment for instruction.

The effectiveness of this book is evident in how it transcends the dialogue of disproportionality as it applies to culturally and linguistically diverse students in special education programs and the complexities teachers face in determining if ELLs have disabilities or evidence typical characteristics inherent in language acquisition. Concomitantly, the authors facilitate a comprehensive approach to equitable education by addressing students’ individual academic and behavioral needs within an RTI framework that blends evidence-based practices in special education and English language learning. Considerable focus is given to the cultural impact on literacy and language development of all students, and RTI is presented within the theoretical tenets of native language instruction.

As a teacher educator for nearly 20 years, I recommend this book as an informative resource for TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and TESE (Teacher Education Special Education) programs at undergraduate and graduate levels, particularly for higher education institutions engaged in dual certification philosophies and practices. The book is practical in that readers learn to deliver research-based, culturally responsive interventions appropriate for all learners, and yet theoretical in its critical analyses of disparate school structures.

The organization of the book allows the reader to easily understand the RTI framework for meeting the needs of English language Learners. The book is organized into twelve chapters: A Framework for Considering the Special Education Needs of English Language Learners, A Collaborative Model of Information Gathering and Service Provision, Describing Before Diagnosing, Delivering a Continuum of Services, The Learning Environment Created for ELLs, Personal and Family Factors, Physical and Psychological Factors, Previous Schooling Factors, Oral Language and Literacy, Academic Achievement, Cross-cultural Factors, and Putting It All Together: How Do We Know That What We Are Doing Works? Each chapter provides several defining sections that are encompassed within the RTI continuum of services, and typically include key concepts, suggestions for systematic interventions, suggestions for specific interventions, Chronicles, and questions for study groups.

The end-of-chapter questions are designed to be used as a catalyst for collaborative team-based decisions on RTI—namely, collecting and analyzing student data, developing interventions, and monitoring progress of those interventions. In fact, the authors provide steps for developing multidisciplinary teams, which they define as ECOS (ensuring a continuum of services) and hold expertise in general education, special education, and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). Furthermore, the book includes Chronicles sections that provide lived experiences shared by professionals who are engaged in key decision-making concepts and activities identified within the book; these stories serve as practical examples of professional learning communities meaningfully engaged in RTI. The book concludes with appendices that include samples of instructional templates and assessment rubrics, as well as a glossary of terminology, an extensive bibliography, and an index.

*Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services* offers a much-needed resource to the field of teacher education, particularly where there are limited materials that emphasize the evidenced-based intersections between English language learners and students with disabilities. While I wish the book had given a great deal more attention to delineating the multi-layered tiers within RTI, I recommend the overall effectiveness of this book and how it informs teachers in delivering a continuum of services.



---

\*Corresponding author: [jcarterh@kennesaw.edu](mailto:jcarterh@kennesaw.edu)

English language learners are students in provincially funded English language schools whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English that is significantly different from the variety used for instruction in Ontario's schools, and who may require focused educational supports to assist them in attaining proficiency in English. Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services. Consultation with parents and other school staff including. a framework for assessing and monitoring English language learners language acquisition and literacy development across the Ontario curriculum. sequencing issue. 2007. Participants will receive a copy of the book\*, "Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services" by Hamayan, Marler, Sanchez-Lopez and Damico. \*Must register by Thursday, March 16 to receive a copy. The morning session will consist of an overview of the key components in the text, and the afternoon session will be an interactive question and answer session with an author of the book, Barb Marler. Objectives: Examine a continuum of services for English learners to ensure the learning environment supports their academic success. Identify seven i All about Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services by Else Hamayan. LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this. Results from Google Books. Click on a thumbnail to go to Google Books.

Start by marking "Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving list. Want to Read. The ECOS (Ensuring a Continuum of Services) Team includes both an English as a Second Language or Bilingual Teacher and a Special Education teacher as well as other stakeholders, and it can function within a Response to Intervention System already established in a school, but with the capability to move quickly to develop authentic assessment and interventions while increasing building capacity for ESL. To ensure that misidentification does not occur, the authors of Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services propose a different approach to assessment and service delivery for ELLs that can overcome many of the problems in traditional assessment and remediation directed toward this student population. Each is briefly discussed here. Assessment. The first and most significant reason for the tendency to overidentify ELLs as in need of special education is that the assessment of proficiency and its manifestations among ELLs is fraught with difficulty. Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners. Delivering a Continuum of Services. Second Edition. Else Hamayan Barbara Marler Cristina Sánchez-Lopez Jack Damico. Lists to ensure that a broad perspective and continuum of services are provided to these students. This guide was written with three purposes in mind. First, we wanted to help teachers identify specific challenges that students encounter in school in a way that would lead to useful support for ELLs.

Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services, Second Edition. Else Hamayan, Barbara Marler, Cristina Snchez-Lpez , Jack Damico ISBN: 978-1-934000-11-3 Paperback: 304 pages Published: January, 2013. This book helps special education specialists learn how to assess the specific nature of an ELL's learning challenges, create a continuum of appropriate interventions, and measure the ELL's response to those interventions. Special Features. Team activities for professional development. Special education considerations for English language learners: Delivering a continuum of services. Philadelphia, PA: Caslon Publishing. Harris, K. C. (1995). The special education referral and decision-making process for English language learners: Child study team meetings and placement conferences. Teachers College Record, 108(11), 2247. Kormos, J., & Kontra, E. H. (Eds.). Special education considerations for English language learners: Delivering a continuum of services (2nd ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Caslon. Providing culturally responsive teaching in field-based and student teaching experience: A case study. Providing culturally responsive teaching in field-based and student teaching experience: A case study. Interdisciplinary Journal of Teaching and Learning, 3(2), 82-101. English language learners: Differentiating between language acquisition and learning disabilities. Jan 2014. J Klingner. A M Eppolito. Klingner, J., & Eppolito, A. M. (2014). English language learners: Differentiating between language acquisition and learning disabilities. Arlington, VA: Council for Exceptional Children. Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010.

reasoning problems; working memory difficulties; dyscalculia Self-regulation issues; social communication concerns; language processing problems; anxiety or depression Self-regulation issues; mental health concerns; learning difficulties and related frustration

Adapted from: Hamayan, E., Marler, B., Sanchez-Lopez, C, and Damino, J. Special Education Considerations for English language learners: Delivering a Continuum of Services.Â Difficulties Faced by English Language Learners ELLs may have difficulties in a number of areas: receptive and expressive oral language, vocabulary, morphosyntax, grammar, word reading, text reading fluency, and/or reading comprehension. They may also show delays in learning academic content and with socialization.

But special education placement without careful consideration is not likely to help. Researchers note that more traditional interventions that help students with language-based learning disabilities often do not help students acquire proficiency in a second language. In fact, it can sometimes present additional challenges by limiting access to core curriculum and focusing on discrete skills taught out of context. This constricts language usage and can make it more difficult for ELLs to understand and retain information. Some myths regarding ELLs and special education. In Special education considerations for English language learners: Delivering a continuum of services (pp. 7-8). Philadelphia, PA: Caslon Publishing. ©Caslon Publishing. Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners by Else Hamayan, 9781934000113, available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. Publisher Caslon Publishing. Publication City/Country Philadelphia, United States. Language English. Edition Statement 2nd ed. Illustrations note Figures; Tables, black and white; Line drawings, black and white.

