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Language, Literacy, and Linguistically & Culturally Diverse Individuals

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Title: Language, Literacy, and Linguistically & Culturally Diverse Individuals

The purpose of this presentation is to highlight culturally and linguistically diverse populations in the classroom. Many children learn form of spoken English that differs from that used in schools/workplaces. Many of these children may be at risk of being labeled as having a reading disability even though they do not have an impairment, but rather language background difference. However, some of these children may also have specific disability in language and/or literacy learning.

Professionals need to distinguish between language differences and language disorders. There is a specific need for education professionals to understand culturally and linguistically diverse populations and the speech and language differences that may affect literacy assessments and outcomes.

This presentation will discuss the difference between mainstream and nonmainstream English dialects. This presentation will also address speech and language differences across cultures from the perspective of a speech language pathologist. Specifically, this presentation will address how educators can try to determine if there is an impairment with a child or a dialectal difference. In addition, this presentation will discuss how dialectal differences may affect student performance both in the classroom and on standardized assessments.