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***Adolescent Language Disorders: A Critical Focus Now and in the Future***

Given the impact of language/literacy disorders on the personal fulfillment and employment success of adults, the work of speech-language professionals must include serious attention to adolescents, because intervention in the pre-adolescent period for these students may not be sufficient to prepare them for the future. Further, we know that language/literacy problems may not come to the attention of educators until the curricula demands escalate in later grades, necessitating language intervention. However, the profession of speech-language pathology has not always included sufficient focus on adolescents, with professionals in other fields assuming primary responsibility for intervention, or with adolescents who struggle in school remaining unserved. In this session Dr. Ehren will make the case for adolescent language services as a priority worldwide, now and in the future in our profession. A strong rationale for this work is the increasing language demands of an ever-changing society, including the need to navigate digital literacy environments and artificial intelligence.

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