

**Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative  
PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM**

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Project Title: Navajo Children with and without Speech Sound Disorders

**Proposal Abstract:**

Progress in the field of speech-language pathology has been made within the culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) population; however, the American Indian (AI) population is still “ostracized” in regard to speech and language research efforts. There are 574 federally recognized AI tribes in the United States; however, little to no research has occurred that specifically addresses the speech production characteristics of AI children with or without speech sound disorders (SSDs). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1997) mandates that all students be evaluated through a nonbiased assessment and requires that students be assessed in their native language. However, there are no speech assessments that consider the speech production characteristics of Navajo children with and without SSDs, or AI children in general. Therefore, it is important to conduct research among the Navajo population. Consequently, the study will aim 1) to determine the diagnostic accuracy of the Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation – Third Edition (Goldman & Fristoe, 2015) and the Khan-Lewis Phonological Analysis, Third Edition (Khan & Lewis, 2015) for Navajo children with and without SSDs. and 2) to describe speech production patterns of Navajo children with and without SSDs and determine how error patterns and observed phonological processes differ from those seen in children who speak Mainstream American English. Results of this project will help both Navajo and non-Navajo speech language pathologists who work with this population to better understand patterns of typical and disordered speech production and to reduce misdiagnosis of SSDs.