Alternate Pathways: An Overview of Atypical Language Development in Students with Cognitive Disabilities

Sarah Grewing, B.A. & Suzanne Peterson, B.A.

Introduction

Dynamic Learning Map (DLM)
- Shows a learning landscape in which skills are related to multiple other skills
- Shows multiple learning pathways
- Allowing for multiple pathways recognizes that there are alternate ways to learn the same skill
- Will give teachers a clearer view of each student’s knowledge if used as the basis for assessment

Alternate Assessment

DLM Assessment
- The DLM Alternate Assessment System uses items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction, and students’ learning is mapped throughout the year
- This gives teachers the opportunity to see what students know during the year when teachers still have time to change instruction to better support student learning
- In addition to the embedded assessment, states have the option of choosing an end of the year assessment

Map
- For students with sensory disabilities, some skills need to be attained via an alternate route
- There may also be some skills that are inaccessible
- For students who are deaf, phonological awareness can be gained in a different way than hearing students
  - i.e. Speechreading, articulatory feedback, cued speech, and visual phonics

Alternate Pathways
- Unique trajectories for skill development specific to individuals with sensory differences

Map
- Multiple routes for acquiring a particular target skill

Alternate pathway for children who are deaf

References