**Title:** Using Speech and Language Universals to Guide Intervention with Bilingual Children

**Faculty:** Lisa Domby, M.S., CCC-SLP

**Description:** What do the languages of the world have in common? And how do they differ from each other? We will discuss language universals, which are properties found in all languages. We will use these principles to discuss practical strategies for targeting aspects of speech and language that will lead to the greatest cross-linguistic generalization.  We will discuss how a language universals approach is compatible with DPI and Medicaid guidelines.

**Objectives:**

Participants will be able to:

1.       Explain the concept of “language universals,” and how they are relevant to bilingual children with speech and language impairments.

2.       Identify specific lexical universals (e.g., word classes) that are appropriate targets for bilingual children with language impairments.

3.       Identify specific universal speech sounds that are appropriate targets for bilingual children with phonological impairments.

4.       Discuss universal social language skills that are appropriate targets for bilingual children with social communication impairments.

5.       Explain how targeting language universals leads to cross-linguistic generalization.

6.       Explain how a language universals approach is compatible with DPI and Medicaid guidelines.

**Intended Audience: Speech-Language Pathologists working with bilingual children (Pre-K through grade 12)**

**Course Preferences:**

Length of session: 5 hours of direct content.

Time of Day: Start after 9:00 am

The preferred timeline would be:

9:00-9:15 What are Language Universals?

9:15-10:15 Lexical universals

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Universal word classes

11:30-11:45 Cross-linguistic generalization

11:45-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:45 Universal speech sounds

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-2:45 Universal social language skills

3:45-3:15 DPI and Medicaid Guidelines