



The AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language

Our Mission:

*Advancing listening & talking
through standards of excellence
and international certification of
professionals*

About the Academy

- Independent subsidiary of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Founded in 2005 and responsible for the global certification of auditory-verbal professionals
- Governed by a Board of Directors who are appointed by AG Bell's Board of Directors
- Online at www.agbellacademy.org

About the Academy

- The AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language administered 250 certification exams in 2008 in 11 cities, five countries and on three continents
- Over 150 new Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS) were certified in 2008
- Significant growth is expected to continue

LSLS Registry

- All certified LSLS are listed on the Academy's Web site
- Listings include certification designation(s) earned, contact info, languages spoken, type of practice and location of primary office

Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS)

- Help children who are deaf or hard of hearing develop spoken language and literacy primarily through listening
- Guide parents in helping children develop intelligible spoken language and coach them in advocating their children's inclusion in the mainstream and their local school

LSLS Focus On:

- Education
- Guidance
- Advocacy
- Family support
- Rigorous application of techniques, strategies, and procedures promoting optimal acquisition of spoken language through listening

Listening and Spoken Language Approaches

- Historically, the two main Listening and Spoken Language approaches have been Auditory-Verbal (AV) and Auditory-Oral (A-O)
- Today, these two approaches have more similarities than differences and lead to similar outcomes as a result of advances in newborn hearing screening, hearing technologies, early intervention programs and the knowledge and skills of professionals

One certification, two designations

LSLS are:

- Certified Auditory-Verbal Educators (LSLS Cert. AVEEd)

AND

- Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapists (LSLS Cert. AVT)



Certified LSLS Must:

- Meet a set of eligibility requirements, found in the Candidate Handbook at www.agbellacademy.org
- Pass the LSLS Written Test
- Provide services in adherence to the AG Bell Academy Code of Ethics, and the Principles of Auditory-Verbal Therapy or the Principles of Auditory-Verbal Education



Mentors

- Mentors play a critical role in LSLS certification
- Council and guide candidates to enhance their auditory-verbal practice and to prepare them for the written exam
- Mentors should review the Application Packet and ensure adherence to the Principles of Auditory-Verbal practice



Mentors (cont.)

- Not responsible for determining LSLS eligibility – that is solely the Academy's role
- Mentors are permitted to charge for their mentoring services



Listening and Spoken Language Practice

- All LSLS have similar knowledge and skills and work on behalf of the child and family
- The LSLS Cert. AVT works one-on-one with the child and family in all intervention sessions
- The LSLS Cert. AVEd involves the family and also works directly with the child in individual or group/classroom settings

Listening and Spoken Language Practice (cont.)

- The LSLS Cert. AVT and the LSLS Cert. AVEd both follow developmental models of audition, speech, language, cognition and communication
- The LSLS Cert. AVT and the LSLS Cert. AVEd both use evidence-based practices
- The LSLS Cert. AVT and the LSLS Cert. AVEd both strive for excellent outcomes in listening, spoken language, literacy and independence for children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Principles of LSLS

- Facilitate optimal acquisition of spoken language through listening by infants, toddlers and children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Promote early diagnosis and state-of-the art audiologic management and technology
- Promote mainstream education by supporting the development of audition, spoken language and vocabulary, reading and written expression

Value and Purpose of Certification

- Establishes international standards for knowledge and practical experience in the provision of LSLS Auditory-Verbal Education and Therapy
- Helps parents find the most qualified professionals to help their children achieve a listening and spoken language outcome



The Process of Certification

- Ensures the LSLS has the necessary knowledge and skills to provide auditory-verbal practice for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families
- LSLS who wish to earn certification must meet a set of eligibility requirements and pass a written examination



Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates must demonstrate satisfactory completion of one of the five Certification Routes based on varying professional and educational backgrounds
- Candidates should review each certification route to determine which best matches their background and experience
- All candidates will take the same Written Test, regardless of their certification route



Certification Routes: AVT

- AVT Route A: for applicants beginning the process after the newly-branded LSLSCertification was created
- AVT Route B: for applicants already in process of completing eligibility requirements required for former AVT Certification program

Certification Routes: AVEd

- AVEd Route A: for applicants working full-time (min. of 15 hours of contact time with students each week)
- AVEd Route B: for applicants experiencing fewer than 15 hours of contact time each week
- AVEd Route C: for applicants working as supervisors or administrators in a listening and spoken language program

Content of the LSLS Written Test

Domain 1	Hearing and Hearing Technology	12%
Domain 2	Auditory Functioning	16%
Domain 3	Spoken Language Communication	16%
Domain 4	Child Development	9%
Domain 5	Parent Guidance, Education & Support	13%
Domain 6	Strategies for Listening and Spoken Language Development	18%
Domain 7	History, Philosophy and Professional Issues	4%
Domain 8	Education	6%
Domain 9	Emergent Literacy	6%



LSLS Certification in the 21st Century

- Represents a rapidly growing and exciting professional specialty
- Provides families with confidence to support their child's spoken language development