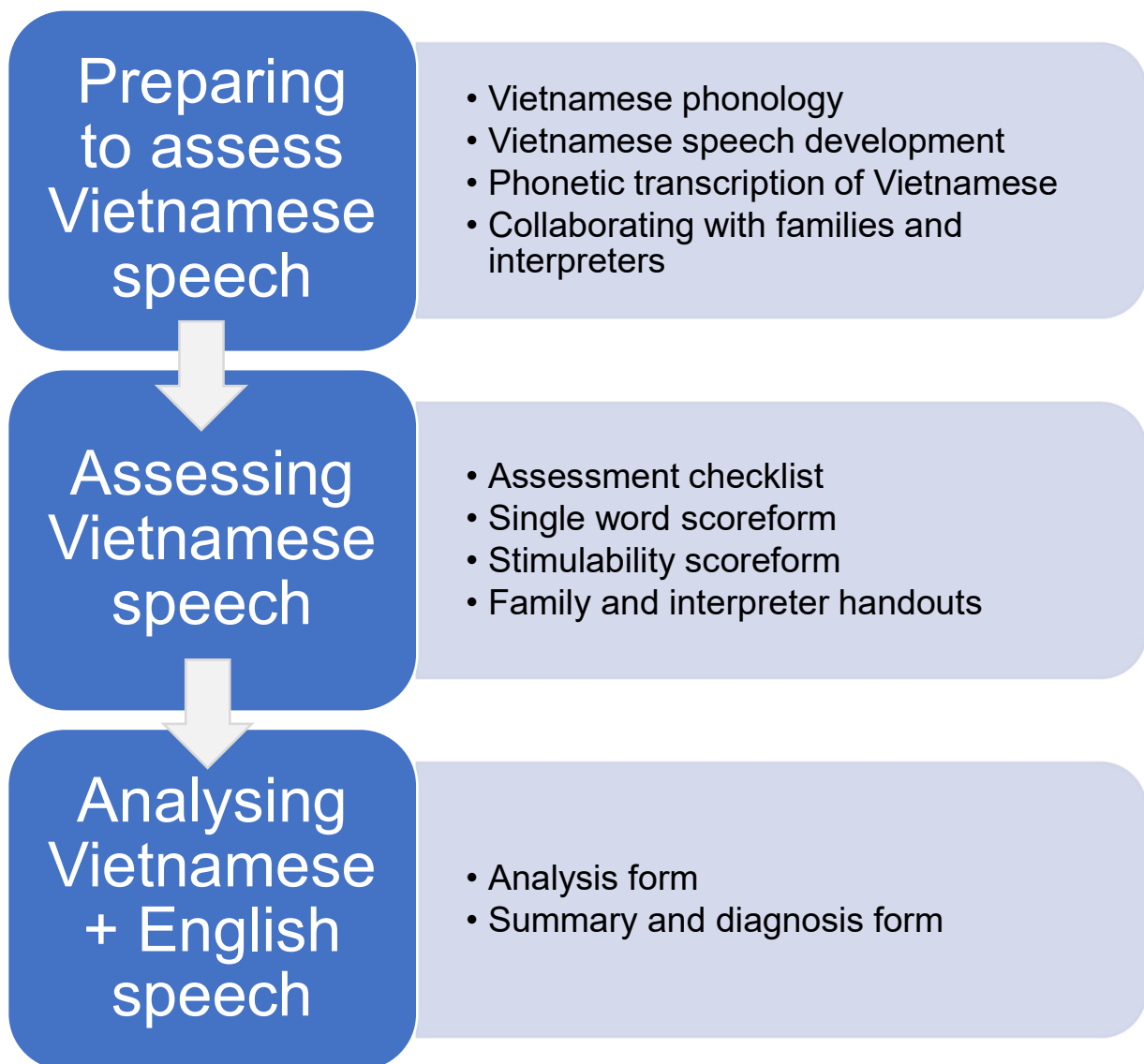


1. Speech Assessment of Children's Home Languages (SACHL)

Overview

The Speech Assessment of Children's Home Languages (SACHL) is a clinical protocol designed to guide speech pathologists and provide them with the clinical resources to assess children's speech in any language.

The SACHL provides the following resources, clinical forms and a manual to support speech assessment of multilingual children in every language that they speak:



1. Speech Assessment of Children's Home Languages (SACHL)

Part 1: Multilingual Preparation

Step 1. Consider your own cultural responsiveness and linguistic knowledge.

Step 2. Learn about the child's home language(s) and dialect(s) and make a plan for transcription^b.

Step 3. Select a single word speech assessment tool in each language.

Step 4. Collaborate with an assessment partner (e.g., family member, interpreter) who speaks the child's home language who can assist in:

- (a) Recording the assessment target words (so the SLP can determine if the child matches the adult target)
- (b) Eliciting a single word and connected speech sample in the home language with the child
- (c) Identifying which home language sounds and words are difficult for the child to produce
- (d) Identifying cross-linguistic transfer during the English speech assessment

Part 2: Multilingual Assessment

Step 5. Conduct case history, language history profiles, language, hearing and oro-motor assessment.

Step 6. Society language (e.g., English) speech assessment: administer the assessment and check whether the child used non-shared consonants from the home language.

Step 7. Home language speech assessment: Ask the assessment partner to administer the child's home language speech assessment and check whether the assessment partner heard any consonant mismatches.

Part 3: Multilingual Analysis

Step 8. Transcribe: Compare the child's productions to the target adult's productions in the home language to help decide if they are correct. Use recordings of the child's and adult's speech to finalise your transcriptions.

Step 9. Analyse the speech samples in each language to form a description of the child's entire phonological repertoire.

- (a) Consider reasons for each of the child's mismatches.
- (b) Note similarities and differences in the child's productions across languages.
- (c) Use a converging evidence approach and criterion-referenced measures across languages for differential diagnosis.

Step 10. Share assessment findings with the family (strengths and concerns) and plan next steps.

^a Reprinted with permission from Margetson and McLeod (2026)

^b Using the Multilingual Transcription Traffic Lights (see SACHL Preparation p.7)

Margetson, K., & McLeod, S. (2026). Speech Assessment of Children's Home Language(s) (SACHL): A clinical protocol. In S. McLeod (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

