Commentary on Monique Fees' Approach to Clinical Case #2

*Student requested name remain

Recommended treatment for Child 2 based on percentile score. This is the appropriate recommendation and part of the appropriate justification but consider supporting this recommendation with additional information such as number of least knowledge sounds, impact of errors on intelligibility, complexity of the sound system, and global phoneme collapse with an [h] substitute for MANY target sounds. Also, noted that expressive language ability was a concern and this is a justified concern. **Appropriate but narrow**

Recommended a maximal opposition approach because it highlights the contrast between sounds. Paired sounds selected will differ by a major class, maximal features, and will both be unknown. This was justified by referencing Gierut's research. This is an appropriate recommendation and an appropriate rationale. It might have been good to note that this should lead to broad system wide change as shown by Gierut's research. **Appropriate.**

Chosen minimal pairs were /s r/; /z w/; /tʃ l/. Why so many pairs? Will all be targeted at once? Remember, treatment of one error can lead to global system wide change if you select the "correct" error based on the available clinical research so pick one of these pairs. Justification for the specific sounds selected were (1) consistent substitute for /s z tʃ/ so only need to treat in one position; (2) nonstimulable /s tʃ/; (3) marked /s z tʃ/ (and l r); (4) least knowledge /s z tʃ/. Another appropriate justification that was not stated was that these sounds are also late acquired. Some of the justification provided was not accurate. In particular, /s/ is stimulable, being produced one time as a substitute for /ʃ/. Also, I am not sure that any of these pairs would really count as 2 unknown sounds. I would classify /w/ and /l/ as most knowledge so these would be considered "known" sounds. I would classify /r/ as more knowledge so this would be a bit of a murky area in terms of whether /r/ would be "known" or "unknown." On those grounds, I would say that /s r/ is the best pair you have and that should be treated first. **Appropriate rationale but problems with the details of implementation.**

High frequency real words and nonsense words based on the findings of Morrisette and Gierut. Sounds in the non-target position were sounds the child knew. **Perfect.**

Overall, your diagnosis and recommendations were on the right track but you should consider a wider range of factors in supporting your diagnosis. Your treatment was well justified and appealed to the majority of the available evidence. In this area, you showed an excellent integration of multiple pieces of evidence; however, you had a little difficulty with the actual implementation in that your sound pairs did not quite fit the type of minimal pair treatment approach you selected.

Grade: A