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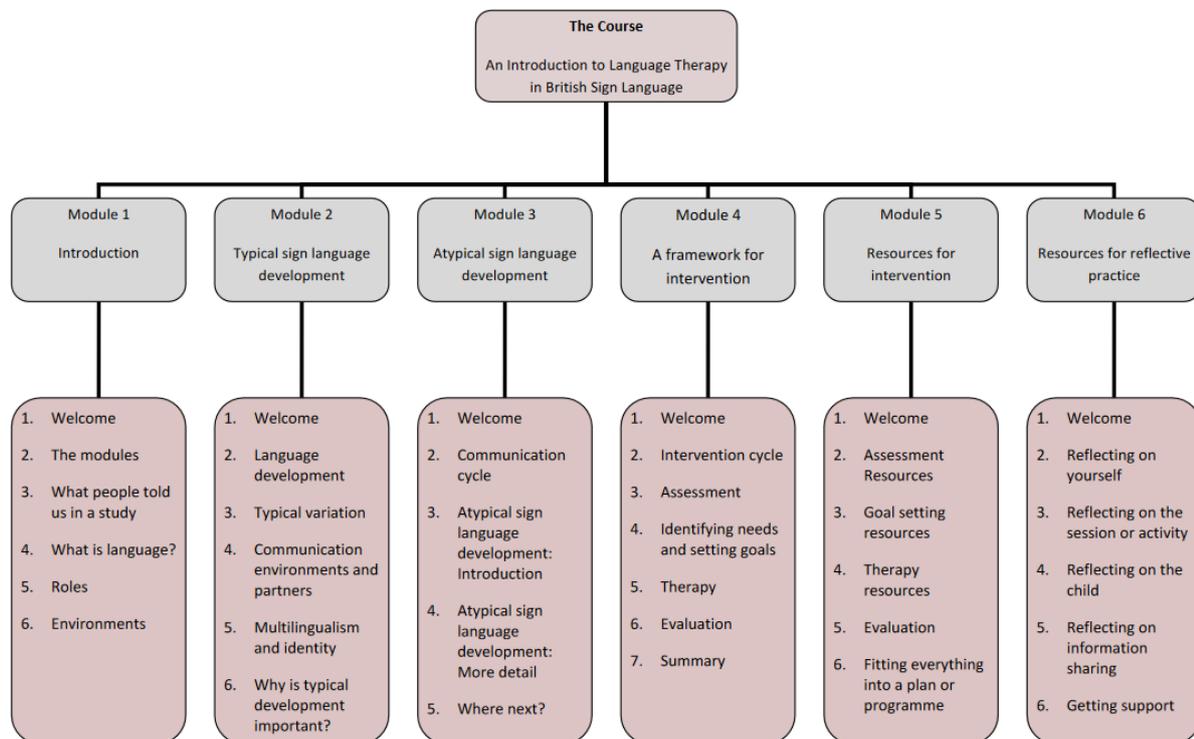


Developing Online Training for Deaf Language Specialists: DOTDeaf

DOTDeaf is an Erasmus+ funded project involving partners in the UK, Spain, Portugal and Brazil. Led by Prof Rosalind Herman and Dr Joanna Hoskin at City, University of London, the project provides learning opportunities to a specific group of Deaf adults, Deaf Language Specialists (DLSs), and co-working Speech and Language Therapists. DLSs work with deaf children and adults in educational, social and health settings. DLSs are a small group with specialist skills. They sometimes work without other Deaf colleagues doing similar work.

A PhD study by Hoskin (2017, <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10022827/>) showed DLSs often have few specific qualifications and limited access to training for the work they do to support children (or adults) with language learning difficulties. Often people start this work because they are fluent in sign language. This means they must develop their skills and knowledge about language development as they work. They may not have the opportunity to learn from and share their knowledge with others. This is inefficient and results in staff lacking confidence in their skills. Sharing information about language (typical and atypical development) gives a stronger foundation for their work. DLSs and Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) often lack a shared vocabulary to discuss language and communication issues. This may also be an issue with other colleagues, who are mainly hearing professionals.

Over 40 DLSs in the UK and partner countries helped with the development and piloting of the DOTDeaf training course. The course includes six online modules:



National workshops: UK 22/04/21 - Spain 21/05/21 - Portugal 14/05/21

International Online Conference: Language Therapy in Signed Languages 25/06/21

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