Administering the Functional Listening Evaluation

A "How To" module for Audiologists,
Speech and Language Pathologists
and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

OCALI
The Outreach Center
for Deafness and Blindness

Dr. Pat Skidmore

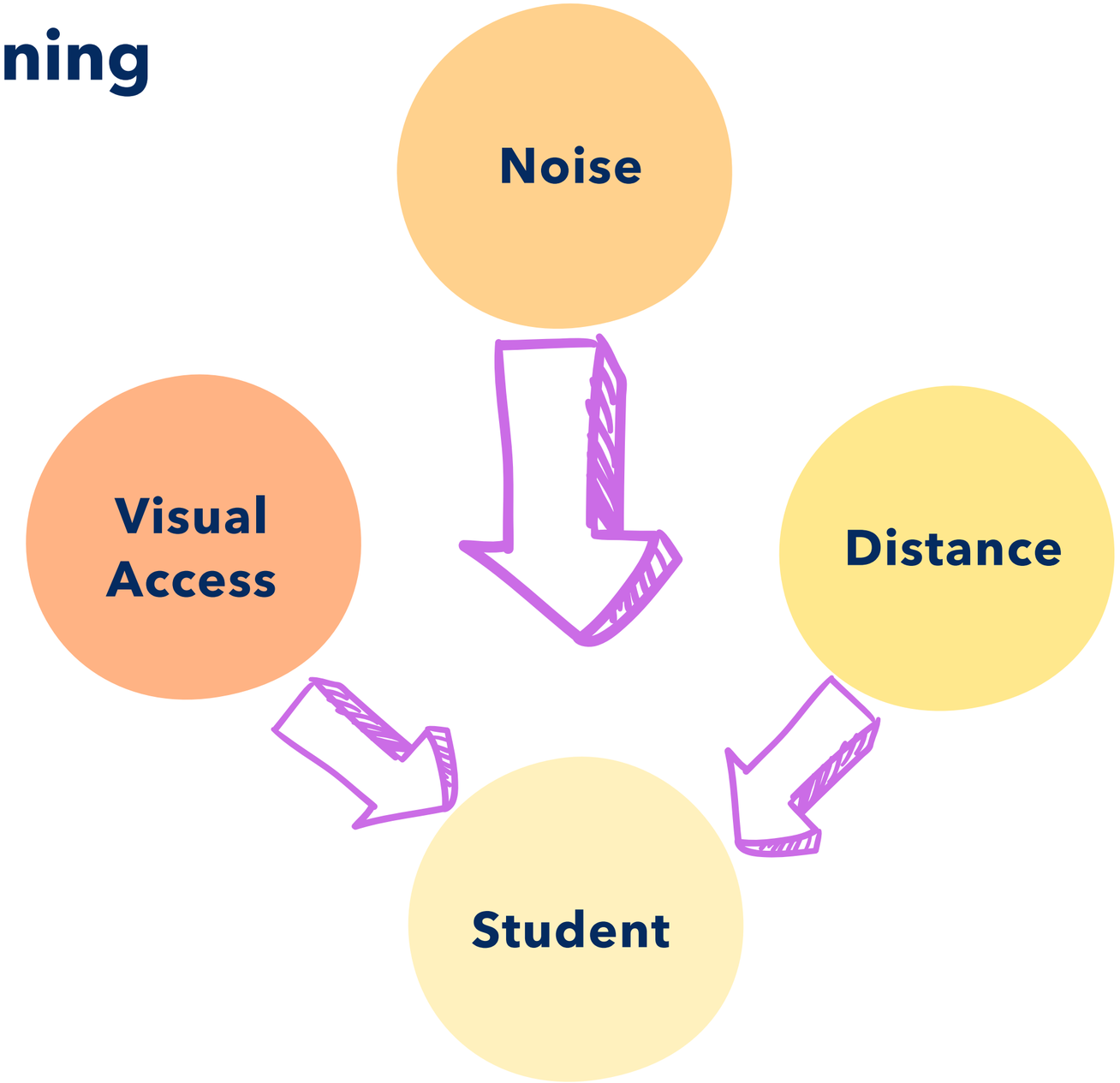
An Audiologist at Montgomery County ESC-Regional Center. Her primary role includes providing hearing and auditory processing evaluations and working with educational teams to determine appropriate supports for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. She is a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist certified by AGBell and a fluent signer. Dr. Skidmore has a special focus area on language development in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population from birth to age five.

Module Objectives

- Explain why a Functional Listening Evaluation is conducted.
- Identify the steps to conduct a functional listening evaluation.
- Given a set of completed FLE data, identify the student's best listening environment and name an accommodation that can be beneficial to the student based on the results.
- Name two additional resources you can use to prepare for or administer a functional listening evaluation.

What is the Functional Listening Evaluation?

A tool designed to assess the impact of noise, distance, and visual access in the student's natural listening environment.



Purpose of the FLE

- attempt to quantify the impact of noise and distance and visual access on an individual learner
- compare accessibility to spoken language with and without assistive listening technology
- can support the need for additional accommodations

FLE Administration

Who can administer the FLE?

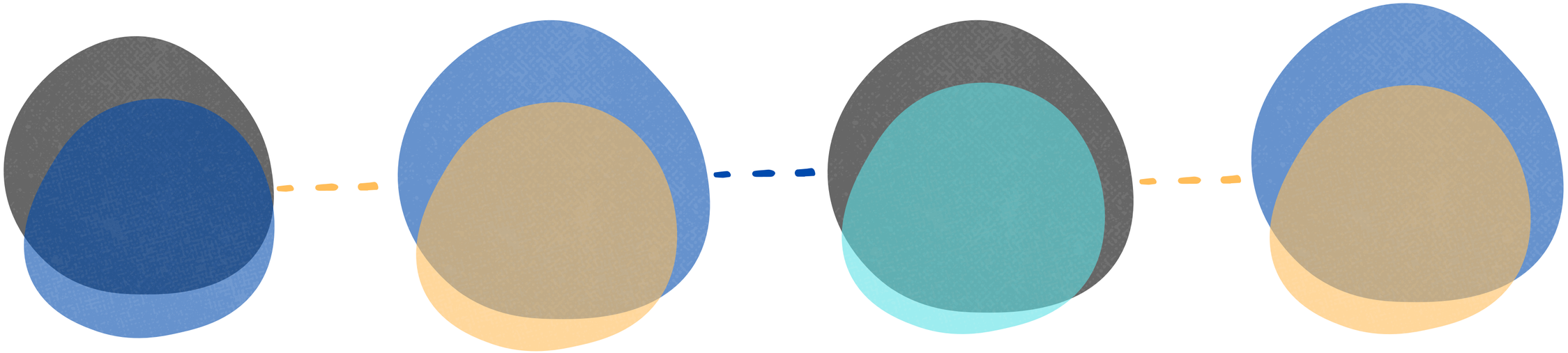
- Educational Audiologists
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

The administrator should have experience with the evaluation and an understanding of how deafness can impact performance in the classroom.

FLE Data and the IEP Team

- Can help determine auditory access to the mainstream classroom teacher
- Provides information for considering specific accommodations for access

Limitations of the Functional Listening Evaluation



Measures access to spoken language, not comprehension of the language

Varied acoustic environments in the school/varied educational environments

Varied readability of the instructor/educator

Personal preference (Learner and Parent)