

# Introduction

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Many of the activities in *No-Glamour Language: Middle School* were written over a period of time in response to specific needs which I saw in students on my caseload. Other activities were written with an eye to what I perceived to be more general needs in language skills for students at this age level.

In public education, the trend continues toward the use of standardized tests to assess student knowledge and progression in the direction of established objectives. Increasingly, these tests require students not only to respond to objective-type questions such as multiple-choice, but to associate and apply information to a variety of situations. Students have a strong need to develop skills that allow them to understand exactly what a question is asking and how to respond to a variety of types of questions. They also need to develop the ability to use language as a reasoning tool to assist in academic endeavors, as well as to help prepare them for life in a complex world. In addition to providing activities that reinforce basic skills, I have attempted to provide activities addressing the above areas and needs in this book.

In my own practice, I believe in maximizing therapy time by addressing multiple skill areas whenever possible. Some students at the middle school level still have speech articulation goals for sounds they have yet to master or carry over consistently. I like to incorporate language skills into articulation therapy activities for these students. Chapter 8 provides exercises containing target sounds /r/, /s/&z/, /l/, and /th/. These exercises also provide practice with vocabulary, synonyms & antonyms, prefixes, parts of speech, sentence formulation, and story construction. Of course, these exercises may also be used with any students needing practice with these language skills, regardless of their articulation abilities.

I hope that the activities in *No-Glamour Language: Middle School* will help you in your very busy and important job of fostering acquisition of essential skills in your students!

Catherine