

# Top 10 research priorities in Childhood deafness and hearing loss

Perspectives from Children and Adults

## Top 10 research priorities ranked by adults

### 1. Special educational needs

What are the best ways to support the special educational needs of deaf children, including children with multiple special education needs, to improve educational outcomes; what support is being provided currently in different school settings, and how effective is it?


### 2. Self-advocacy

How can deaf children be empowered to advocate for themselves, understand their deafness, develop confidence and independence, and be prepared for adulthood?

### 3. Family relationships

How can families be supported to build positive relationships and communicate well with their deaf child, and how does this affect language, cognition and social-emotional development?

### 4. Mild and unilateral deafness

What is the impact of mild deafness or unilateral deafness on the outcomes of children and young people, and do hearing technology and educational interventions help? 

### 5. Deaf identity

How can deaf children develop a positive Deaf identity/sense of self, feel accepted in both the Deaf and hearing communities, and what is the impact of Deaf culture and role models?

### 6. Language deprivation

How can language deprivation be identified early, what are its impacts, and what interventions can help?

### 7. Access to learning BSL

What are the availability, barriers and enablers to learning and using British Sign Language (BSL) for deaf children of all ages, their families and professionals across the UK?

### 8. Communication choices

How do communication choices, like British Sign Language (BSL), spoken language, or a combination of both, affect deaf children's mental health, education, and well-being, and how can this be communicated to families to ensure informed choice(s)?

### 9. Glue ear

What are the causes, prevalence and impact of glue ear, and which interventions and clinical pathways are most effective in supporting families and improving outcomes?

### 10. Speech and language interventions

Which interventions are the most effective in developing speech and/or language skills in deaf children?

## Top 10 research priorities ranked by children

### 1. Incidental hearing and learning

How does it affect deaf children when they miss out on hearing things going on around them? Like during play with their friends.

### 2. Family relationships

How can families communicate well and have a good relationship with their deaf child?



### 3. Special educational needs

What kinds of help do deaf children need at school, especially if they have other learning needs too? Are they getting this?



### 4. Mild and unilateral deafness

If a child is a little bit deaf or deaf in one ear, do they still need help? If so, what works?



### 5. Language deprivation

Is it harder for deaf children if they don't learn to communicate early in their lives?



### 6. Friendships

What needs to happen to help deaf children make and keep good friends?

### 7. Type of school

How can we tell what sort of schools are best for deaf children? e.g. a school with just deaf children, a school with deaf and hearing children, or a school with a special team to help deaf children?

### 8. Cognition

How does being deaf change the way children think, learn, pay attention, understand other people's feelings, and feel sensations in their body? What would help?

### 9. Speech and language therapy

Is speech and language therapy helpful for deaf children?

### 10. Self-advocacy

What might help a deaf child feel proud and more confident about growing up to be a deaf adult?



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