



MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS



Of the 164 4-5 year-olds in the study that were identified as having hearing loss, 71 were not included in these findings due to having a current ear infection. The remaining cohort of 93 children had moderate, severe, or profound hearing loss. This cohort represented 2% of the children in the study.



ADHD

"Children with hearing loss are 7 times more likely to be reported to have an attention deficit disorder."

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Children with hearing loss are more likely to be scored by their parents as having emotional symptoms, peer problems, and conduct problems.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Indigenous children and boys were most likely to have hearing loss in this sample.

FINDINGS SUGGEST

It is possible children with hearing loss are not aware of social behavior that is required of them, more so than have organically poor mental health.



DEVELOPMENTAL ABILITIES

Teachers score the developmental abilities in children with hearing loss as "worse on every measure" than those without hearing loss. These abilities include social emotional, approaches to learning, and expressive language.

Fellinger, J., Holzinger, D., Beitel, C., Laucht, M., & Goldberg, D. (2009). The impact of language skills on mental health in teenagers with hearing impairments. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 120(2), 153-159.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Early interventions for language development and psychological well being are necessary. Interventions should be mindful of the listening environments of children and ensure children have communication access.

