

Learning more about deafness in children and young people

An Easy-Read Booklet



Introduction

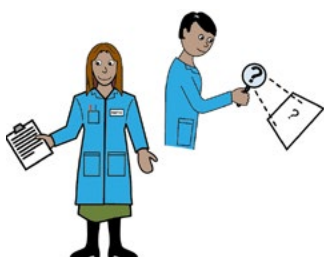


Who are we?

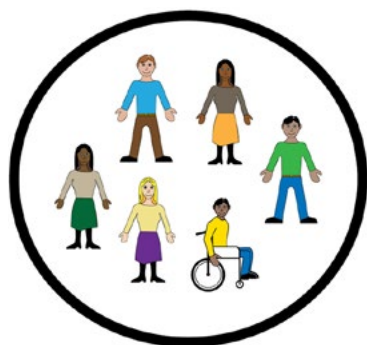
We are a group of people who want to help deaf children and young people. We look for answers to important questions. People call us **researchers**, and the work we do is called **research**.



Sometimes things are hard for deaf children. We want to understand how to make things better for them.



We want to find out the most important questions to improve experiences for deaf children day to day.



We worked with a group called the **James Lind Alliance**. We talked to people all across the UK, like:

- deaf children and young people
- parents
- teachers
- people working in hospitals



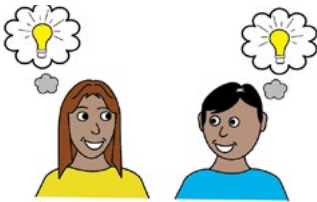
Together, we made two lists of the **Top 10 questions** that people wanted to learn more about and get answers to.

Timeline

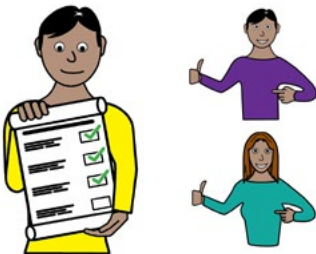


We began by asking: **What do we need to learn more about to help deaf children?**

More than 400 people in the UK were interested. They sent us more than 1000 ideas on a survey.



We also asked deaf children what they thought. They had lots of ideas.



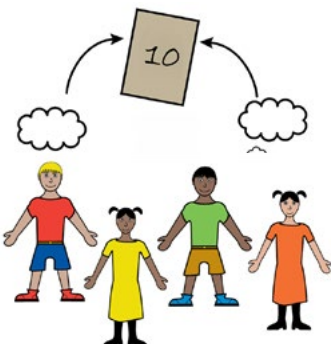
We put similar ideas together and asked people which ones they liked most.

We found **21 questions** that people liked best.



Then we held a workshop for adults

- 22 adults, including deaf young people, parents, teachers, and people who work in hospitals, came to talk about the 21 questions.
- They agreed on the Top 10 most important questions that should be studied to help deaf children.



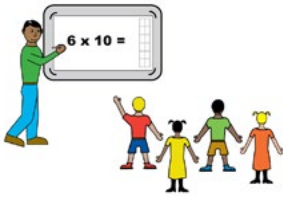
We also held a workshop for children

- 10 deaf children from different parts of the UK came to talk about the 21 questions.
- They agreed on their own Top 10 questions they thought were most important.

Adult Top 10 questions



This is the Top 10 list of research questions that the adults made:



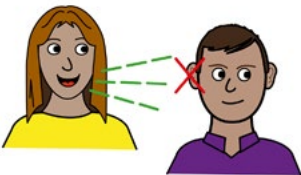
1. What kinds of help do deaf children need at school, especially if they have other learning needs too? Are they getting this?



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



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



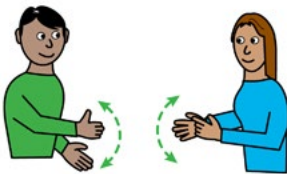
4. If a child is a little bit deaf or deaf in one ear, do they still need help? If so, what works?



5. What helps deaf children feel like they belong with both deaf and hearing people? What doesn't help?



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



7. What makes it easy or hard for deaf children, their families and teachers to find out about, learn and use British Sign Language?



8. How can families choose what's best for their children – British Sign Language or spoken language, or both?



9. Why do some children get glue ear and others don't? How can we help those that do?



10. What helps deaf children most when they're learning to talk or to use language?

Children's Top 10 questions



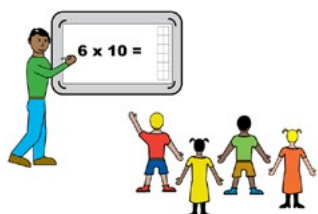
This is the Top 10 list of research questions that the children made:



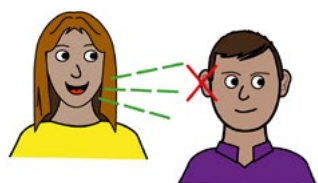
1. How does it affect deaf children when they miss out on hearing things going on around them? Like during play with their friends.



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



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



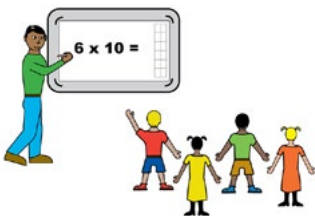
4. If a child is a little bit deaf or deaf in one ear, do they still need help? If so, what works?



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



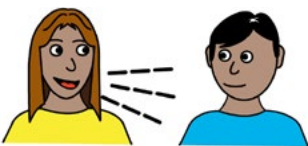
6. What needs to happen to help deaf children make and keep good friends?



7. 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. 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. Is speech and language therapy helpful for deaf children?



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

Thank you to everyone who supported us.
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Lancaster University



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PF Charitable Trust

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UK Research
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What's next?

You can get involved by

- telling other people about the Top 10 lists
- sharing your views on how we could use them
- getting in touch with us using the email address childhooddeafness@manchester.ac.uk



We have a website. You can use this QR code to go to the website.



You can read more of our stories there.



www.childdeafnessresearch.co.uk



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