

## **Many Talkers and Better Word Identification for Preschoolers with Hearing Loss**

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Learning new words from many talkers is better than from a single talker for infants and for second language learners. For children with hearing loss, multi-talker speech also helps with word identification. However, it is unclear whether such benefits extend across word positions and speech contrasts (e.g., both voicing & place). For example, stops can be variably realized in the word final coda position. The initial results from our word identification study did not provide support for an advantage in word identification when listening to multi- over single-talker speech, for normal hearing preschoolers (NH, N=8) or those with hearing loss (HL, N=4). However, these results for the HL group did support past research with NH preschoolers, showing a single speaker advantage in word identification. Analysis from a larger sample will be discussed with implications for clinical interventions including the benefits of early exposure to diverse speakers at daycare.