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Deaf multilingual learners: What does the research evidence tell us?

An increasing number of children who are D/deaf and hard-of-hearing are growing up in environments were more than one spoken language is used, with or without the use of a signed language. Raising children to take advantage of their multilingual surroundings to become competent users of multiple languages can be challenging for parents and professionals. This is especially challenging because the evidence-based for what constitutes appropriate assessment and intervention practices for use with d/Deaf multilingual learners (DML) and what the anticipated outcomes of DMLs may be is constantly changing and evolving. This presentation will consider raising DMLs from a number of perspectives to answer the following questions: What is multilingualism? What does multilingual language acquisition look like? What are the anticipated outcomes for DMLs in terms of speech, language, and literacy? How do you monitor and support speech and language skills across multiple languages?

Biography - Kathryn Crowe

Dr. Kathryn Crowe is an adjunct in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Iceland. She concurrently holds positions as an Adjunct Associate Research Professor at the School of Education, Charles Sturt University, Australia, and as an affiliate of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA. She is a Fulbright alumnus, member of the International Expert Panel on Multilingual Children's Speech, and a member of the Global Young Academy. Kathryn's research has focused on cultural and linguistic diversity in children, particularly children with hearing loss, their families, and the professionals who work with them. She is passionate about using evidence to inform clinical and educational practices and making available evidence accessible to parents, professionals, service providers, and service administrators.

Biography - Mark Guiberson

Professor Mark Guiberson is a Spanish-English bilingual speech-language pathologist who has worked in early intervention & K-12 settings, including with children with hearing loss from bilingual backgrounds. His studies have described screening and intervention processes with Spanish-speaking families.