



Evelien Dirks

Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child

Fostering the language and social-emotional development in young children with hearing loss

Children develop their language and social-emotional skills through interactions with others. In the early years of life caregivers are the closets to the child and thus the best to foster their child's development. Caregivers can enhance their children's language and social-emotional development by exposing them to a rich language. For example, by elaborating on their child's language, by asking open-ended questions, and talking about mental states and emotions. Further, sensitive and responsive parenting promotes children's development. In our research we examined different aspects of parent-child interactions in young children with hearing loss in relation their development. Results on parental sensitivity, intrusiveness, joint attention and language exposure will be presented and discussed in relation to children's language and social-emotional skills. Implications to foster the language and social-emotional development in children with hearing loss will be discussed by presenting our research on parent-based interventions. A shared storybook reading program for parents of children with hearing loss and an intervention to promote parental social-emotional talk will be discussed in detail.

Biography

Evelien Dirks is a senior researcher and program leader of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Research and Development program of the Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child (NSDSK) in Amsterdam the Netherlands and she is affiliated at Utrecht University. Her research focuses on parent-child interaction, language, social-emotional and cognitive development in young children with hearing loss. In addition, she is involved in ongoing studies on the effect of early interventions. Next to her research she co-developed books, movies, courses, and apps for children with hearing loss, their parents, and professionals.