

Refining the assessment framework of auditory functioning in the Thai Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program

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Abstract

Childhood hearing impairment reduces access to auditory stimuli, including speech, which can significantly impact children's listening and communication performance in everyday situations. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs have been implemented globally to mitigate the effects of hearing impairment. While timely and effective management and intervention are provided, ensuring that each child develops language and communication skills and can engage in real-world conversations requires systematic assessment throughout the EHDI service pathway. In Thailand, although EHDI programs have been implemented in most areas, efforts have primarily focused on meeting time-based quality indicators, with less attention given to systematic assessment and children's actual performance. Moreover, assessment tools and procedures are very limited, especially for young children. This project aims to identify best practices in developmental assessment and to develop an assessment framework within Thai EHDI programs, with a primary focus on auditory functioning assessment.