

**Evelien Dirks** is a senior researcher at the Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child (NSDSK) in Amsterdam the Netherlands. She has a master degree in psychology and she is currently finishing her Ph.D thesis (psychology). She has conducted research in the areas of social-emotional development, language development, executive functioning, and parent-child interaction in young deaf and hard of hearing children. She examined the effect of parent-based interventions like interactive reading programs and parent programs to enhance children's early numeracy skills. Evelien Dirks has published and lectured internationally on topics related to early development in children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Next to her research she co-developed a sign app for young deaf and hard of hearing children, educational books and films, and courses for parents and professionals.