

Titel: Strategies to promote positive early mental health and wellbeing

Abstract: Even a slight and temporary hearing loss has been shown to increase the risk of mental health problems and lower psychological well-being among children. This presentation will introduce current evidence based practices and guidelines for how to support psychological wellbeing and mental health for different groups of children with hearing loss. The different types of mental health problems a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, with or without additional disabilities, may experience will be discussed. This presentation will also consider explanations for the higher risk of mental health problems among children with hearing loss. One explanation focuses on the possibility of shared biological causes for hearing loss and associated mental disorders. Another explanation focuses on the mix of psychological and social factors and, in particular, the impact of delayed language acquisition. According to this account, hearing loss increases the risk of language delay, which increases the risks delays in social and cognitive development, which in turn increases the risk of mental disorders. A number of risk and protective factors are of significance in prevention and treatment services and programs for deaf and hard of hearing children with mental health problems. Each of these will also be discussed.

Link: https://psychology.ku.dk/academic_staff/?pure=en/persons/207010