



**Presentation Title: The EPID: Early Parent Interaction in Deafness - A New Assessment Tool  
Co-Produced with Parents**

**Keynote Presenter: Martina Curtin**

**Abstract:**

The quality and quantity of parent-child interaction (PCI) is a key predictor for the successful development of deaf children's language. Though professionals have assessments to monitor child language, a tool to observe parental interaction is yet to be developed. This four-stage, mixed-methods project, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (UK), addresses this gap.

*The project's aim:*

To develop an evidence-based, deaf-specific, observational assessment tool for early interventionists to use in collaboration with parents and deaf children aged 0-3 years. The tool will positively identify parent interaction behaviours that support language development.

*Co-production and service-user involvement:*

An involvement group of hearing parents of deaf children, and hearing and deaf practitioners, academics and charity employees were funded to collaborate with the researcher on each phase.

*Methods:*

1. A review of the research to identify which parent behaviours are assessed, how they are assessed and which link to deaf children's language scores.
2. A national UK survey (and follow-up focus groups) to understand professional practice in the assessment of PCI.
3. An international consensus study using results from (1) and (2) to gain expert agreement on the core content of the tool.
4. A co-production phase to transform the outcomes of (3) into a family-centred tool.

*Results*

The results of each stage will be shared during the presentation, along with future directions and implications for families, practitioners, and deaf children.