

TENDER FOR A COMPARATIVE EVIDENCE REVIEW FOR DEAF CHILDRENS LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

TITLE	A comparative evidence review. Comparing evidence around outcomes for deaf children's language and communication with different communication methods used by the family in Early Years .
ABOUT THE CHARITY	<p>Cued Speech has been established for over 50 years, it has been widely researched and evidenced to have a positive impact on language acquisition for deaf babies and children and thus enhance the progression to literacy learning. We are the only organisation in the UK to be able to offer training and family support in Cued Speech. We work with other organisations for the deaf and have a well-established identity</p> <p>We have funding for three years 2017 -2020 and beyond, to help develop our 0 – 3 project working with deaf babies/children and their families.</p> <p>Deaf babies and children need their family and other adults to use Cued Speech in order to give the child a full and rich first language . The use of Cued Speech transforms the lives of deaf children.</p>



BACKGROUND

There is a large body of research into different aspects of deaf children's language and communication which has accumulated over recent decades. Much of the more recent research literature has focused on the impact of cochlear implantation for deaf children. There is also a substantial number of studies that focused on specific modes of communication or interventions; sign language, sign supported English, auditory verbal therapy and oral/aural methods. Whilst some of the literature has compared outcomes for spoken communication and sign language, particularly some of the larger cohort studies in the USA, recent systematic reviews of the evidence around different approaches have focused on particular communication modes rather than comparing them.

Cued Speech. There is a large body of research evidence spanning over the last three decades focused on the efficacy of using cued speech with deaf children, much of this has been published outside the UK and has not gained as much recognition in the UK as it has in other countries particularly France, Belgium and the USA. There is therefore a gap in the UK literature on deaf children's language and communication as the evidence on cued speech has not been given full consideration alongside other communication methods.

THE TASK AND OBJECTIVES

The majority of children born deaf are born to hearing parents with no previous experience of childhood deafness.

Cued Speech UK is looking to contract an academic researcher /research centre to conduct a comparative review of the research evidence on language and communication outcomes for deaf children in families using the following communication methods

- Sign language
- total communication (sign supported English)
- Spoken communication supported by AVT
- Spoken communication only
- Spoken communication supported by CS

There is a varied research base for these different approaches, much of the evidence is in small cohort studies and case studies that might not be suitable for inclusion in a systematic review but in this context, studies of this kind, particularly when collected as a body of evidence, will be important to consider.

We would be wanting the research to include some comparison of the overall bodies of evidence in these different areas. The study will also need to assess the evidence accumulated on the impacts and outcomes in each of these communication methods.

We will be wanting a fully referenced narrative report based on the analysis of the evidence base across these different areas and a full bibliography of references included in the study.

The report will need to detail the appraisal of the relevant literature including comments on different areas of strength and weakness in the body of research reviewed.

Whilst Cued Speech UK will be requiring a full length report without a specific word limit we would also want the researchers to produce an academic article on the basis of this paper to publish in an academic journal(s)

CSUK has collected some published literature which it can share with the researchers, this includes recently published systematic/evidence reviews on sign supported English, AVT and the literacy outcomes for children using cued speech. We also have a significant selection of research literature on CSUK.

The research centre or researcher will need to have full access to relevant academic literature.

TENDERING PROCESS

Please provide with a tender proposal. The proposal should address the following headings:

1. Background

Proposals should provide the following information. Relevant research expertise and experience

2. Proposed Methodology

.

3. Project team including CV (S)

Applicants should advise on who will produce the research briefings and their qualifications. This section should also advise on any management or quality assurance arrangements in place.

4. Price

We have a budget of 6k for this piece of work so the proposal should include a proposed budget within this overall figure

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The main contact for Cued Speech UK for details on this opportunity will be Henrietta Ireland, Executive Director

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Tenders should be sent to info@cuedspeech.co.uk

Applications for tender will close on the 31st of October 2018. A mixed internal and external panel will select the strongest application.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the 16th of November.

CSUK expect the research to start in January 2019 with a completion date of the 30th of April 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or for an informal discussion, please contact Henrietta Ireland by e-mail on henriettaireland@cuedspeech.co.uk