



New Study Confirms Positive Outcomes of Early Sign, Oral Exposure with Cochlear Implants

A major study was published in the April 21, 2010 issue of JAMA (formerly known as the Journal of the American Medical Association), "Spoken Language Development in Children Following Cochlear Implantation."

Marc Marschark, NTID, recently offered an analysis of the study, indicating "deaf children who show the best outcomes tend to be those who have the benefits of early sign language and exposure to spoken language."

Other key analysis of the study from Marschark:

- Parent-child communication is usually the best predictor of child language learning, whatever the mode of communication used
- There is no evidence that early sign language interferes with spoken language, whether or not deaf children have cochlear implants
- If the auditory nerve is not stimulated it will atrophy
- In the study of 425 children with severe hearing loss some 268 were considered appropriate candidates for cochlear implantation – while not all deaf children are good candidates for implants most deaf children do benefit from implants, whether or not they end up using spoken language
- Cochlear implants alone do not increase language for a deaf child – language and academic success is directly related to the total involvement of parents, family and teachers

The Willie Ross School for the Deaf uses speech and sign language to help its students develop communication skills and achieve academic success.

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