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Describing the Self-Efficacy Found in Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

Audiology & Speech-Language Sciences

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Faculty Sponsor(s): Hanks, Julie

This study allowed an opportunity for parents of children with hearing loss who were being seen at the University of Northern Colorado Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology Clinic to provide information regarding personal measurements of self-efficacy and involvement concerning their child's life with a hearing loss. Research in this specific field has been spearheaded by Jean L. DesJardin, designer of the Scale of Parental Involvement and Self-Efficacy (SPISE). Due to the emergence of the SPISE in the area of parental self-efficacy, the primary purpose of this study was to compare the data obtained by parents whose children attend the UNC clinic to existing measures found in other populations.

Five parents of children with hearing loss were voluntarily recruited and were asked to complete a modified version of the Scale of Parental Involvement and Maternal Self-Efficacy (SPISE). The questionnaire contained three sections: demographic information, self-efficacy and parental involvement.

Given a sample of children who were identified with a hearing loss and provided amplification at a young age, overall parental self-efficacy and involvement was high, when compared to previous studies. With regard to involvement, responses indicated an overall level of confidence and dedication on behalf of the participating parents. Similar results were found with the parental self-efficacy questions and responses in this area concluded that the participants felt comfortable, knowledgeable and confident in their role as the parent to a child with a hearing loss. This research highlighted that the age of identification and amplification of a child provides a direct correlation to high parental self-efficacy and involvement. Additionally, mean scores were calculated for each item on the SPISE and compared to data previously published by DesJardin. The correlations drawn between the data and further results will be discussed in the oral presentation as well as implications for practitioners.