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## **Teacher Assessment of Sensory Processing Abilities of Children with Hearing Loss**

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Children with hearing loss face learning challenges at school. Limited literature indicates that children with hearing loss may be at risk for sensory processing difficulties. If this is so, occupational therapists and teachers may need to address these difficulties, in addition to hearing loss, to help them learn in school. This project provided information about sensory processing abilities of children with hearing loss, which is lacking in the literature. The Sensory Profile School Companion [SPSC] (Dunn, 2006), a standardized assessment tool, was used to evaluate sensory processing abilities of the children.

### Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the literature concerning sensory processing skills of school-aged children with hearing loss.
2. Discuss the research methods, results, conclusions and implications for the research question: "What are the sensory processing abilities of children with hearing loss at a school for children with hearing loss as measured by SPSC?"
3. Discuss implications of this descriptive research study as related to provision of occupational therapy for school-aged children with hearing loss and implications for further efficacy research.

### Methods

72 parents of students with hearing loss attending a school for children with hearing loss were ask to allow their teachers to complete the SPSC. Teachers of 41 children completed the SPSC. Results of the SPSC were analyzed using the Goodness of Fit Chi-Square test. If the Goodness of Fit Chi-Square test was significant then Binomial tests were performed to compare observed and expected frequencies ( $p < 0.05$ ). Mann Whitney U-test was used to determine significant difference between children with and without cochlear implants.

### Results

Results showed that these children with hearing loss had significantly more sensory processing difficulties that a typical population.

### Conclusions and Evidence-based Contribution to Occupational Therapy

Study results indicated that children with hearing loss may be at risk for sensory processing difficulties. Limitations of this study include small sample size and the auditory sensory processing items in the SPSC. Implications for further research will be discussed and implications for classroom-based occupational therapy practice with this group of children will be explored.

### Reference

Dunn, W. (2006). Sensory Profile School Companion, PsychCorp.