

**A Comparative Study of Deaf Children's
Peer Acceptance with their Speech Intelligibility.**

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Abstract

This study looked at the popularity and acceptance of 17 deaf pupils in a Hearing Support Facility within a mainstream Primary School. Using a quantitative design, each mainstream class was asked to complete a peer nomination questionnaire. The average peer nominations received by the deaf pupils were significantly lower than those of their hearing peers and this did not relate to the pupil's speech intelligibility. Scatter graphs and 'Spearman's Rank-Order Correlation Coefficient' were used to compare the number of nominations, speech intelligibility, hearing loss of the pupil's better ear and number of 'TROG' blocks attained. The comparative analysis of this data only showed a modest correlation between the pupil's hearing loss and their speech intelligibility. A comparison was made of the percentage of nominations each pupil received. This showed that all the deaf pupils, with the exception of 2, were below the school average.

If deaf children are going to be accepted to the same extent as their hearing peers, it would seem that they need to lead an equally active life along side their peers.

Although this small-scale study is not generalised, it is hoped that these ideas will stimulate further and wider research in this area.