

Investigating Specific Language Impairment in children with  
both Hearing Impairment and English as an Additional  
Language: Can the three co-exist?

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Statement of Originality

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**Abstract:**

This study is an investigation into the language abilities of children with both Hearing Impairment (HI) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) within one Local Authority, in an attempt to determine if Specific Language Impairment (SLI) can co-exist with these two factors. A thorough and systematic review of the existing literature was carried out and then the files of 11 HI and EAL children were analysed. This analysis was divided into two phases; phase one used a data collection form to gather information from all of these 11 files and then phase two focused in more detail on five children for whom SLI was suspected. It was hoped that this would enable the researcher to identify SLI by 'ruling out' all other causes of language difficulty. The results showed that all of the children within this cohort had delayed language but this could only confidently attribute this to SLI for one child. However, for many of the 11 children studied, missing or insufficient information prevented the researcher from reaching a firm conclusion. Therefore this study concluded that SLI can co-exist with both HI and EAL but was unable to establish the prevalence of this.