

Autism and Children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Christine Yoshinaga-Itano

This presentation will present information about the prevalence of autism among children who are deaf or hard of hearing, understanding the rates of ASD in Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and the general population. Identification of hearing loss and cochlear implantation are occurring before any concerns about autism spectrum disorder arise necessitate the need for audiologists and early interventionists to become knowledgeable about the behavioural symptomatology associated with this dual diagnosis. Information about atypical development in children with the dual diagnosis and explanation of the minimum of two “red flags” as a screen for referral for ASD. Information about the need to adapt diagnostic tools for the identification of autism among children who are deaf or hard of hearing will be discussed. In addition, intervention strategies and their relationship to children who are deaf or hard of hearing will be included.



Learner Outcomes:

- Participants will be able to describe red flags in the development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and screening tools for autism appropriate for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Participants will be able to describe adaptations for assessment procedures for autism that are appropriate for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Participants will be able to describe intervention adaptations for children who are deaf or hard of hearing with autism.

Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano is a Professor Emerita of the Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences and is currently a Research Professor, in the Institute of Cognitive Science, Center for Neurosciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder, adjunct faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology and Audiology at the University of Colorado, Denver and the Board member of the Marion Downs Center. She developed the Marion Downs Center in 1996 and received funding from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, Maternal & Child Health, the Office of Special Education, and the Office of Education since the early 1980s. Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano has assisted state departments of public health and education, schools for the deaf, and early intervention programs throughout the United States and its territories. In addition, she has served as a consultant for many countries who have developed early hearing detection and intervention programs. She was the recipient of the 2016 AG Bell Association Volta Award, 2015 Fred Berg, Educational Audiology Career Awards, 2015 Colorado Academy of Audiology Lifetime Career Award, 2013 Academy of Audiology(AAA) Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology, the 2001 AAA Research Achievement Award, the 2010 Robert Ruben Award for Research from the Society for Ear Nose and Throat Advances for Children, the 2014 Antonio Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence and the 2010 Council for Exceptional Children, Division of Communicative Disabilities and Deafness Award.

Deafness and Autism:

Can children benefit from hearing technology?