

Background of the researcher

Aoife Gallagher has worked as an SLT and SLT manager across a range of different school settings in the UK with children who have speech, language and communication needs. She is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Limerick, Ireland. She is a PhD scholar on the SPHeRE programme, a structured PhD programme aimed at building capacity in health service and population health research in Ireland.

Background to the survey

If SLTs are to meet the needs of school-aged children and young people with developmental language disorders in school, they need to work collaboratively with teachers, parents/ carers and the child/young person (C/YP). Currently, many decisions about SLT support in school take place without the parent/carer and child, and SLTs and teachers struggle to work effectively together.

The online survey is the final phase of the PhD study in which we aim to develop a model to guide best collaborative practice between these stakeholders. We are seeking the views of parent/carers, practitioners and researchers about some proposed statements related to collaboration which will inform the model.

About the survey

The online survey takes about 45 minutes to complete. Participants will be presented with some statements about collaboration and they will be asked whether the extent to which they agree with them. They are also asked to give a reason for their decision. Practitioners and researchers are shown the same statement. The responses are analysed to see if there is good agreement between the participants about the statements.

Statements for which there is no agreement are sent back to participants along with a summary of the responses from round 1. Participants get to reconsider the statements one more time having read the views from the previous round. A survey done in this way reduces any pressure parent/carers might feel to agree if they had met the other participants face to face.

If any parent/carer is interested but would rather do the questionnaire by post, this can be arranged. We are keen to hear from mothers and fathers of children with DLD who have experience of attending collaborative planning meetings about meeting their child's needs in school.

If you are interested to get involved, please contact Aoife Gallagher: aoife.gallagher@ul.ie.

Note: This study has been granted ethics approval by the Education and Health Sciences Ethics Committee at the University of Limerick (Ref:16_12_15_EHS). The research is funded by the Health Research Board (SPHeRE/2013/1)