

**Title**

Provision of therapy services for young children with language impairment in Bulgaria

Authors

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Background

Provision of better options in physical, cognitive and psychological development of young children requires different authorities in Bulgaria to take responsibility in the establishment of complex services for early intervention. This step is fundamental in the process of preventing developmental delays including first language acquisition.

Aims

We're studying how different institutions organize services for young children with special needs and to what extent they include children with difficulties in first language acquisition.

Methods & Procedures

The research is based on parents' queries and information by Bulgarian authorities - governmental and public institutions, and NGOs who are developing services in early intervention.

Results

Often NGOs are in a leading position because of their flexibility in collecting funds and establishing contacts across the country and internationally on their way to develop and run projects in early intervention, collect and analyse data in diagnostics, intervention delivery, dissemination of good practices, etc.

Conclusions and implications

Early intervention services for children with language impairment are still facing challenges in spite of many successfully finalized projects and good financial support for both governmental and non governmental organizations. There is an official recognition of the importance of language development in early childhood followed by joint efforts in the introduction of quality operational services in early child language diagnostics and therapy.