



Title

Service provision to children with developmental language disorder in Spain

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Background

Different European countries have structured provision of therapy to children with developmental language disorder (DLD) in various ways. In addition, practitioners delivering intervention are also variable. In the context of COST Action IS1406, we carried out an initial approach to outline which practitioners are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of children with DLD, their training, and their role in health, educational, and other contexts of intervention.

Aims

To provide an initial outline of service provision to children with DLD in Spain.

Method

In the context of COST Action IS1406, various questionnaires were completed by key informants in different regions. These questionnaires were produced within the Action and are common to other European countries.

Results

Although similar to other European countries, two main features characterize the Spanish system: the coexistence of two professions —speech-language pathologists, and hearing and language teachers— with different backgrounds and training, and a highly decentralized and heterogeneous system of service provision across different regions.

Conclusions

The variety of practitioners and administrations responsible for service provision to DLD may be resulting in a large variability in the quality and intensity of treatment to these children, which warrants further study.