How Deaf Students Learn: What Research Shows Us

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Outline

- Background: Deaf students in US
- Cognitive development
- Language learning
- Literacy development
- Implications for the classroom
Background: Deaf Students in US

- Demographics
- School placement
- School achievement
Cognitive Development: Visuospatial Skills

- Sensory compensation?
- Visual function
  - Image generation
  - Attention
Cognitive Development: Short Term Memory

- Do deaf people have shorter memory spans?
- Recent research on STM
- The verbal span
  - Native speaker: 7 +/- 2
  - Deaf signer: 4 +/- 1
- Effects of STM span size on reading
Interaction of Knowledge and Reading

ASUL
BERDE
PULA
LILA

NTID
Interaction of Knowledge and Reading

PULA
LILA
ASUL
BERDE
Interaction of Knowledge and Reading

ORANGE
DAMO
DUGO
UBAS
Interaction of Knowledge and Reading

UBAS
DUGO
DAMO
ORANGE
Cognitive Development: Long Term Memory

- Examples of long term (semantic) memory
- Importance of long term memory
- Differences in knowledge organization
Language Learning

- Deaf students learning a sign language
  - English: Daddy           Tagalog: Ama/Tatay
  - English: goed, foots    ASL: DON’T--EAT

- Key factors in language acquisition
  - A rich language environment
  - Quality parent-child communication

- Learning to speak versus learning to sign
Literacy Development

- **Reading**
  - Different decoding strategies
  - Similar metacognitive strategies

- **Writing**
  - Product: vocabulary & structure; organization and content.
  - Process: modeling and social interaction

- **Language and Literacy**
Implications for the Classroom

- Visual distractions
- STM and reading
- Semantic memory and reading
- Language learning and academic success
- Clear and meaningful communication
- Interactive, constructivist approaches
References


