

How Qualitative Research Informs EHDI Practices

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Our Panelists:

Gina Oliva – ASCD Board member

Mark Drolsbaugh – School Counselor,
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Psychology PhD student, Gallaudet University

Linda Lytle – Co-Director, ITF Program and
Professor Department of Counseling, Gallaudet
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What is Qualitative Research?

- "...qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or to interpret phenomena in terms of meaning people bring to them."

Mertens, (2015), p. 236.

- The experts are not the researchers but the members of the community being studied.
- Especially important for small, diverse communities

Why qualitative research?

- Focuses on lived experiences of deaf children and their families
- Focuses on deep understanding of individual perspectives
- Shows relationships between individuals and the programs that serve them
- Identifies questions researchers should be asking
- Small samples can lead to broad themes

And most important...

- Qualitative research is a culturally sensitive approach to research as it keeps marginalized individuals front and center. It promotes social justice.

DHH Students in General Educ.

- Questions answered:
 - What are the quality of school experiences reported retrospectively by DHH adults?
 - Shared themes of identity struggles, limited friendships, mediated education and system issues.
- Methodology: Focus groups, survey, written prompts

Oliva & Lytle (2014)

Hopper: Incidental Learning

- Questions answered:
 - Were there differences in incidental learning for deaf and hearing students?
 - If so, what can be done to make this more equal and equitable?
- Methodology:
 - Comparative study of free writing of what was seen, heard, experienced by two girls (1 hearing; 1 deaf) during down periods at school- on the bus, between class, lunchroom, etc.

Hopper (2011)

Mauldin: “Made to Hear”

- Ethnographic Study: How do parents experience early intervention?
- Methodology: Interviews and observations
 - Clinics
 - Parent Support Groups
 - Schools and Homes
- Major findings and recommendations for further study

Drolsbaugh

- Frame of reference is critical, as seen in Dr. Hopper's research and books published by deaf authors
- Our works have shown that deaf people (and their parents) can go a long time – from birth to the late teens and beyond – before learning of other opportunities that flew under the radar
- Common refrain: "I wish we knew this before"
- Qualitative researchers can shorten the amount of time it takes to become aware of, and make the most of, all resources available

Perspectives on EI Services

- Questions asked:
 - What are the perspectives and experiences of Puerto Rican parents'/caregivers' about their early intervention services for their deaf or hard-of-hearing child?
 - What are the perspectives and experiences of Puerto Rican providers regarding early intervention services in Puerto Rico?
- Methodology: Semi-structured Interviews
- Analysis: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Barreto Abrams (2018)

Useful references

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