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## **Early Identification and Intervention for Children with Hearing Impairment in Japan**

### **Abstract**

It is well known that early detection of hearing impairment is closely related to the subsequent growth and development of children. In Japan, newborn hearing screening (NHS) is used as an early detection system. NHS began in some areas in 2000, and the current screening rate as of 2023 is 96.2%. In addition, early intervention for hearing impaired children aged 0 to 2 years has been provided in the education sector since around 1970 as Infant and Toddler Education Consultation at deaf schools, and since 2012 in the health and welfare sector at the Child Development Support Center; in both sectors, support activities have been developed to help parents and hearing impaired infants and toddlers establish parent-child communication and create an environment conducive to language acquisition. However, in NHS, there are issues with the rate of public funding and measures for children who have not been screened, and in Infant and Toddler Education Consultation there are issues with the lack of support for children with cochlear implants and the allocation of specialists, and it can be seen that Japanese society is not keeping up with issues of development in technology and the needs of hearing impaired persons. In this symposium, I will report on the current situation of early identification and intervention in Japan and also discuss these issues.

### **CV**

Inho Chung graduated from Dankook University in Korea and then went on to obtain a doctorate from the University of Tsukuba in Japan. He has been involved in education and research at universities since 1993 and has worked at the University of Tsukuba since 1995.

His specialist field is psychology of hearing impairment, and he has been researching and studying the cognitive and language development of hearing-impaired children. In his doctoral thesis, he analysed the characteristics of reading aloud by children with hearing impairments, and later, due to the need for online data, he conducted research on the characteristics of reading sentences using eye movement.

He has also investigated the characteristics of reading strategies used by children with hearing impairments from the perspective of communication, and recently he has been conducting research on the relationship between communication and learning strategies.