



# The Outcome is Greatness

## 25 Years of Listening and Spoken Language

What does life look like for adults who started the Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) journey as babies? How do they feel about the choice their families made for them? Recent research from leading audiologists Dr. Stacey R Lim, Dr. Don Goldberg, and Dr. Carol Flexer highlights the incredible achievements of children born deaf or hard of hearing whose families chose LSL.

### About the Research Study

The goal of Listening and Spoken Language (also called auditory-verbal therapy) is for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to learn to speak, listen, and achieve at the same level as their hearing friends. Over the last 25 years, researchers have conducted studies to find out if LSL accomplishes that goal. In 1993 and 2001, surveys showed the majority of LSL children grew up to be adults fully integrated into the hearing world. In November 2018, researchers published a follow-up report based on an online survey, "Auditory-Verbal Graduates—25 Years Later: Outcome Survey of the Clinical Effectiveness of the Listening and Spoken Language Approach for Young Children with Hearing Loss."

**Lim, S. R., & Goldberg, D. M., & Flexer, C. (2018). Auditory-Verbal Graduates—25 Years Later: Outcome Survey of the Clinical Effectiveness of the Listening and Spoken Language Approach for Young Children with Hearing Loss. *The Volta Review*. 118(1.2), 5-40. doi:10.17955/tvr.118.1.2.790.**

### The Study Participants

The 207 adult survey respondents came from all over the world, including: United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, UK, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Philippines, Taiwan, Mexico, Austria, and Indonesia. The majority were born with profound hearing loss and all received LSL intervention before the age of 5.



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### Research Highlights

#### Family involvement is key.

For 58.5% of participants, one or both of their parents adjusted their careers to make sure the child received a lot of language practice at home. LSL involves the entire family because children learn language best through loving, meaningful interactions with their caregivers. Singing, talking, and reading at every opportunity is important for a child's language development.



**“Enrich the language. It's not enough to be in casual conversations. They need to be intentional. Parents need to read, read, read to the child.”**

–Dr. Carol Flexer

#### High achievement in mainstream schools is possible.

The majority of participants attended mainstream schools from preschool through high school, and continued their education at mainstream colleges and universities. Accommodations in the classroom such as sitting at the front of the room, using remote microphone technology, or working with a notetaker helped students who are deaf or hard of hearing achieve on the same level as those with typical hearing.



**“There are many different kinds of opportunities for kids when they grow up.”**

–Dr. Stacey Lim



100% graduated from high school

57.5% graduated from or currently attend a 4-year college

10.6% completed a master's degree

10.1% completed a doctoral degree



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### LSL opens doors.

95.8% of 189 participants responded: "I would do it all over again."

**"Words can't describe how thankful I am for my parents.**

It is because of them I was able to speak English."

—Study Participant.

**"I'm glad my parents helped me adapt to the hearing world**

even though growing up wasn't easy as I was always challenged. If I had to do all over again I would have made sure I went through auditory-verbal therapy with or without my parent's support."

—Study Participant

**"I feel that A-V [auditory-verbal] has opened so many doors** and helped me take advantage of so many opportunities that would not have been possible or would have been much more difficult if I were not able to communicate orally with the hearing world. Examples run from something as simple as ordering a drink at Starbucks to more complex situations such as traveling alone to Germany for a month in college."

—Study Participant

**Watch a panel discussion with the researchers hosted by Hearing First's CEO, Dr. Teresa Caraway at [Facebook.com/hearingfirst](https://www.facebook.com/hearingfirst).**