Records identified through database searching (n = 1,641) Additional records identified through other sources: hand-searching personal literature files and the reference lists of relevant articles (n = 8)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 1,151)

Records screened (n = 1,151)

Records excluded* (n = 1,061)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 90)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons (n = 78)
- Protocol not clear or mixed results among protocols: 13
- Results of full audiological evaluation Missing: 19
- Review: 8
- Submission date prior than October 2010: 9
- Other reasons: 29

Studies included in qualitative synthesis (n = 12)

Articles could have presented more than one exclusion criteria but have been classified only against the first one identified

Studies included in quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis) (n = 0)

Fig. S1. Flow diagram of eligible studies