Author's response to reviews

Title:The effects of sign language on spoken language acquisition in children with hearing loss: A systematic review protocol

Authors:

   Elizabeth M. Fitzpatrick (elizabeth.fitzpatrick@uottawa.ca)
   Adrienne Stevens (adstevens@ohri.ca)
   Chantelle Garrity (cgarrity@ohri.ca)
   David Moher (dmoher@ohri.ca)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Systematic Reviews Editorial Team
Systematic Reviews

Dear Editorial Team,

Re: Manuscript # 1739847124108396: Revised Manuscript

Thank you for the positive review of our manuscript: The effects of sign language on spoken language acquisition in children with hearing loss: A systematic review protocol. On behalf of our team, I am pleased to submit a revised manuscript for your further review, which takes into account the reviewer comments as well as the editorial requests. These items and our response are detailed below as well as a few additional minor modifications. As requested, the changes in the document were made using “track changes” to facilitate your review. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this revised manuscript.

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, PhD
Associate Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Ottawa, Canada
Senior Scientist
Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute

Reviewer Comments:

My only minor comment relates to the handling of non-English/French language articles. The protocol states that they will not be included in the review for pragmatic reasons, but it isn't clear if they will be screened for inclusion at all. If they will be screened, perhaps the final review could simply list the citation details of any studies that were relevant to the review question but did not meet the language criterion?

Response. Thank you for pointing out this omission. On page 12, we have added that citations in
other languages will be noted at the broad screening level and the details of these citations will be included in the final report.

**Editorial requests:**
1) Please ensure that you PROSPERO registration number is present at the end of your abstract.

2) Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style ([http://www.systematicreviewsjournal.com/info/instructions/](http://www.systematicreviewsjournal.com/info/instructions/)). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

Response: The PROSPERO Registration number has been added: PROSPERO registration number: CRD42013005426

- The manuscript's formatting has been checked against the journal style requirements.

**Other minor revisions:**

p. 2 – Abstract, one word was deleted to ensure 350 word count.

p. 11 (top) – We have added that articles will not be excluded on the basis of outcome during the screening stages.

p. 11-A previous statement re inclusion of outcomes up to age 18 has been deleted to allow for the inclusion of longer-term studies that may include participants over age 18 years.