Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2013

Reviewer: Mark Rodgers

Reviewer’s report:

This is a clearly written and well reported protocol. I was pleased to see the authors had referred to PRISMA-P and was also pleased to see a specific plan for engagement with knowledge users - this is particularly important for researchers hoping to engage with Deaf culture. From the language used in the protocol, it seems the authors are sensitive to the cultural issues in this field.

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?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests