

Biography:

Céline St-Onge is from North-Bay, Ontario. She is currently a fourth-year student in the bachelor's program of Speech-Language Pathology at Laurentian University. She aims to continue her education further in the Master's program of Speech-Language Pathology at Laurentian University. Her research interests include developmental language disorder, bilingualism and language acquisition in a minority context.

Research:

The Impact of DLD on the Acquisition of a Minority Language

The acquisition of a second language in a minority context can be challenging, even more so when the individual must also manage a developmental language disorder (DLD). A developmental language disorder can affect an individual's ability to understand and/or use language. It can have an impact on many areas of language, including; phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics or pragmatics. This research will statistically demonstrate the variation in second language acquisition for children of typical development and children with a DLD. This information will help demonstrate that children with a DLD need extra support and realistic goals in order to have a better experience in their acquisition of a minority language.

In this research, various test scores will be analysed. The tests were used to measure expressive language, receptive language, semantic memory, information processing, pre-reading abilities and written language. These tests were administered to the same children within a five-year time period (in kindergarten, first grade and third grade). The scores of children with typical development and the scores of children with a DLD will be compared. All children are attending schools in an English language dominant area, which means that French is the minority language. The minority context can also have an effect on the acquisition of French as a second language. To summarize, the main goal of this research is to determine to what extent a developmental language disorder can have an impact on learning a language in a minority context.