



children



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The Well-Being and Care of Deaf Children

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Hearing loss is becoming an increasingly common cause for concern. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 466 million people experience hearing problems, amounting to almost 6.1% of the world's population. Of this percentage, 7% of the hearing-impaired group are children.

Hearing loss has come to be classified based on various criteria, with each of them describing the causes of hearing loss, as well as their characteristics in terms of features relevant to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Statistics show that two to three children per 1,000 are born with a hearing disorder. For this reason, it is important to intervene appropriately to offset its impact in a child's later life.

If hearing loss is not recognized early enough, it can interfere with a child's intellectual, social, and emotional development. Hearing loss can cause detrimental effects related to speech and language, with significant developmental, educational, and cognitive outcomes in children. Definitively, a child who cannot hear human speech will not learn to speak, and if he begins learning at a later stage, speech defects may remain with him forever.



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