

# **IMPROVING SPEECH SKILLS OF EARLY AGE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS WITH A GUIDED SPEECH APPROACH**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study was prompted by teachers' concerns about the ineffectiveness of teaching speech and language to deaf children at an early age, and the lack of optimum development of their speech and language. Based on these problems, this study aims to improve the speech skills of hearing impaired children at an early age using the guided speech model. The method used is collaborative action research. This research has been carried out for 2 years and in the first year has provided information about the state of speech development of early childhood hearing impaired students as well as the learning process of speech development carried out by teachers. This year's research will develop a guided speech development model for early childhood hearing impaired children and implement the model to improve the learning process of speech development in SLB. The research will be conducted in 4 special schools in the DIY region. The research subjects are early childhood hearing impaired students, while teachers will act as collaborators in this research. The results showed that the validation of the Guided Speech Development Model for Early Childhood Hearing Impaired Children has good content validity with a validity value of each indicator of 0.83. The implementation of the model in schools can also improve the speaking skills of early childhood hearing impaired children through 2 cycles in each school.

*Kata Kunci: speech skills, guided speech, early childhood hearing loss*