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The experience of hearing children as they cope
with having a sibling with deafness

by

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Declaration

I declare that: *The experience of hearing children as they cope with having a sibling with deafness*, is my own work, that all the sources used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references, in accordance with departmental requirements.

I have not used another student's past work to hand in as my own.

I have not allowed and will not allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as his/her own work.

Signature_____

Notes about the text:

1. All participants in this research granted permission to present their conversations here.
2. Names of participants have not been used to protect their identities.

SUMMARY

**The experience of hearing children as they cop with having
a sibling with deafness**

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to describe the experiences of hearing children as they cope with having a sibling with deafness. From a constructivist point of view, this research process is seen as socially constructing a reality or realities, with the researcher included in, rather than outside the borders of his or her own research. Semi-structured and unstructured interviews were conducted with the subjects. These interviews were aimed at obtaining information regarding the subject's experience of the stressor of having a sibling with deafness.

The participants reported limited family interaction. Although most siblings say that they have good relationships with their siblings with deafness, their

primary feelings indicate that there are aspects of having a sibling with deafness that can be challenging. The participants described experiencing a variety of feelings which include the following: frustration, loneliness, anger, affection, resentment and pity.

The results of this study have shown that the siblings of children with deafness, need more professional support in terms of coping with the disability and its consequences. Siblings need guidance on active coping responses in coping with the stressor of having a sibling with deafness.

Key words: *constructivist approach, sibling relationships, coping responses, disability, deafness and stressor.*

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