

Dear all,

I am delighted to be able to share with you the **final report from our SIRG on the future of research on language, communication and mental health**. The report is attached, and we have also [uploaded this report as a "pre-print"](#) so it can easily be downloaded and shared with others. You can also access the report, and a 5 minute video of me talking through the report, [from the EMERALD lab page](#).

As summarised in our report, the questions people wanted research to answer included **why language and mental health were related** and **what can be done to improve clinical practice**. We hope our report will be used by researchers far and wide to provide a solid foundation to their bids for research funding. If you are a researcher who will be submitting a bid shortly, you can cite our report: "Hobson, H., Cross, M., Jefferies, V., & Forster, M. (2022, May 19). What is the future of research on language and communication needs and mental health? A report by the Special Interest Research Group for Language, Communication and Mental Health. Retrieved from psyarxiv.com/sdf8n"

Many thanks to everyone who helped us to produce this report, by completing surveys, sharing links and attending online workshops.

Aside from our final report, below are some other pieces of news to share:

Researcher feedback event - A success! In April, we invited families and clinicians to a small in-person event in Oxford where they heard 4 "pitches" from researchers planning new research projects. The feedback from families was excellent - the researchers went away with much to think about. Some of these projects are seeking advisory groups - if you would be interested in being involved, read below!

Seeking advisory board members - the ICE project. One project that presented at our researcher feedback event was the ICE (In-session, Collaboration, Engagement) project. This large project is aiming to investigate "therapist talk" (what language do therapists use? Is it accessible?), join up speech and language therapists and mental health researchers, and engage young people over social media to better understand their research needs. If you'd be interested in finding out more, and potentially helping by being an advisory board member for this project, please contact Prof Nikki Botting (Nicola.Botting.1@city.ac.uk)

Seeking advisory board members - Camouflaging in DLD. Another project that was presented at our feedback event was my own! This project is planning to examine camouflaging in DLD: camouflaging describes behaviours that children and young people might do (either consciously or unconsciously) that disguise a communication need. We want to develop

ways of measuring camouflaging in DLD, and examine whether it predicts mental health problems, and others' perceptions of young people. As mentioned below, I will shortly be on maternity leave, so if you would be happy to be contacted when I return about being involved in developing this grant, [please could you fill in this short form and I will get in touch when I return to work!](#)

Goodbye for now... On some personal news, **I will be on maternity leave after May 20th**, so this will be the final SIRG newsletter! However I will return to work in January 2023 (all being well!) and will be back to work, researching and promoting research on mental health and language needs. Please keep an eye on the EMERALD lab Twitter ([@YorkEMERALDLab](#)) for any news in the meantime, and I hope I will have progress to share in 2023 about how our SIRG's work has been taken forward! In the meantime, you can contact Emerging Minds, who funded this work, with any questions/comments: emergingminds@psych.ox.ac.uk

All the best,
Hannah, Melanie, Melanie and Vicki
SIRG on Language, Communication and Mental Health