

## **Time to chat? The power of professional discussion!**

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Background: Professional discussions allow us to engage and learn with and from each other. When meeting for a new case discussion, reviewing case notes, or debriefing a challenging session, we utilise shared knowledge, concept knowledge, and subject-specific vocabulary in our interactions. It is these interactions that strengthen our collaborative relationships and work practice, and promote professional trust and cooperation. As part of a PhD study into the professional identity of Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) including those who work in early intervention settings, an investigation was conducted into professional identity.

Aims:

- To identify the activities that strengthened the professional identity of teachers of the Deaf.
- To identify strategies to promote professional relationships with related health professionals including audiologists and speech pathologists.

Method: As part of a mixed methods research project, 94 ToDs completed an anonymous online survey, and 18 ToDs were interviewed between 2020-2021.

Results: The study found that opportunities that promoted collaboration between a range of education and health professionals such as case discussions promoted individual professional identity and strengthened collegial partnerships.

Discussion: This presentation will discuss research findings about the benefits of peer discussion on professional identity and consider the benefits of establishing set and structured discussion times with your peers. This presentation will consider how an organisation can establish safe and engaging discussion spaces and provide strategies for promoting open and honest communication. Finally, the presentation will make suggestions about how to schedule these discussions into our busy schedules.