

RARE

**Development of speech skills in
mentally retarded children
having speech problems;**

A study of children with Down's syndrome

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to gain a knowledge of the development of speech skills of mentally retarded children who live in Sinhala speaking society. A research of the language abilities of all mentally retarded children is a vast area. Hence this research has been limited only to the speech skills in mentally retarded children with Down's syndrome. The results of this research are explained in five chapters.

Findings of many scholars on mental retardation are stated in the first chapter. This chapter also includes a brief explanation of the communication process, condition of mental retardation, measures of mental retardation and the causes attributed to their language disorders. The methodology of this research too, is included in it.

The analysis of their phonological problems has been emphasized in the second chapter. Sounds that children are able to produce and articulatory problems that they face have been analyzed concerning each child separately.

Recognized abilities on morphological production of children with Down's syndrome and their difficulties that exist in this field have been analyzed in the third chapter.

Various syntactic features produced by children with Down's syndrome are explained in the fourth chapter.

In the fifth chapter, it has been explained how children with Down's syndrome develop language skills. The abilities of language; speech production, perception and comprehension have been stressed in this chapter.