

# Translation into British Sign Language and validation of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire

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## Plain English summary

### BSL and validation of the SDQ

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## Plain English summary

To accurately detect mental health problems in deaf children we have translated the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), the most commonly used tool in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, into British Sign Language (BSL). It is a version for deaf young people, deaf parents and deaf teachers.

We translated the English version into BSL using two teams of bilingual translators, one translating them into BSL and the other translating the new BSL version back to English (without having seen the original). Focus groups and an expert panel checked for cultural and linguistic appropriateness.

To 'validate' the new BSL version we compared the results from the BSL SDQs with a 'gold standard' clinical assessment interview administered by a clinician with specialist knowledge of both Deaf culture and child mental health.

At the end of the study we showed that the BSL version (including young person, parent and teacher versions) of the SDQ was able to detect mental health problems. This will be helpful for future research and also means we can develop better scoping of the mental health needs of deaf children and young people.

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