Mothers of hearing-impaired children speak less in interactions with their children (Lederberg & Everhart, 1998). But what about mothers of congenitally deaf children with a cochlear implant (CI)?

**Research Questions**

Are mothers of CI children more, less or equally responsive in interactions with their children than mothers of NH children?

RQ1: Are mothers of CI children more *voluble* than mothers of NH children?

RQ2: Are mothers of CI children more *responsive* to their children’s utterances than mothers of NH children?

**Method**

**Participants**
- 25 NH children and 10 CI children
- CI children: implanted between 6 and 20 months, PTA aided between 28 and 53 dBHL

**Data**
- Monthly video-recordings of 45 - 90 minutes
- NH children from 6 to 24 months, CI children 1 month post CI up to 30 months post CI

**Measures for RQ1**
- Volubility: number of utterances per hour
- Linguistic age: expressed as true canonical babbling ratio (tCBR) (Molemans, van den Berg, Van Severen & Gillis, 2012)

**Measures for RQ2**
- Responsiveness: maternal response within two seconds
- Two linguistic phases: Prelexical (tCBR) and Lexical (cumulative vocabulary) phase

**Results – RQ 1 Volubility**

- Children’s hearing status affects mothers’ volubility and responsiveness:
  - RQ1: Mothers of CI children are significantly more voluble.
  - RQ2: Mothers of CI children are significantly more responsive to their children’s utterances in both the prelexical and lexical phase.

→ CI children receive *more linguistic input* from their mothers than NH children.

→ Further research: Do mothers of CI children also differ on other matters such as speech rate?