



Long term implications of being in a preschool noise environment, a child- and personnel perspective.

Kerstin Persson Waye¹, Sofie Fredriksson¹, Irene van Kamp².

¹ Occupational and Environmental medicine, Community Medicine and Public Health, The Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg University (corresponding author)

² National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Centre for Sustainability, Environment and Health, Netherlands

Email to corresponding author: kerstin.persson.waye@amm.gu.se

ABSTRACT

Exposure to noise at an early age may have long term health implications of which we today have very little knowledge. Mechanisms such as frequency selective amplifications of noise exposure and susceptible hearing systems, adoption of inadequate behavioral strategies resulting in manifest coping patterns and alterations in biological stress regulatory responses should be of concern. In Sweden 83% of children between the ages of 1 to 5 years attend preschool. The noise exposure is intermittent and irregular and the noise levels reach up to 84LAeq (time indoors), and 118 LAFmax. To increase the overall understanding of the possible implications of being in a preschool noise environment, the paper aim to describe children's experience, understanding, and coping with their every day sound environment given from a child perspective and from a personnel perspective. The analyses are based on grounded theory, qualitative content analyses, combined with quantitative analyses. Finally, the risks of long term implications on hearing and health will be discussed.