



**SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet** August 2020

**What are antecedents?**

Antecedents such as speech and hearing problems are subtle deviations in development that may become evident during childhood or adolescence. The presence of these deviations may foreshadow the later development of schizophrenia, however most children who exhibit these antecedents do not develop the disorder. Studies exploring antecedents are ideally based on representative, population-based samples that follow the group from birth through childhood and adolescence to adulthood. These studies can provide unique insights into the changes in developmental trajectories that may be associated with schizophrenia.

**What is the evidence for speech and hearing problems?**

Moderate to high quality evidence finds medium to large effects of early language dysfunction in children who later develop schizophrenia. These include abnormal speech, delays in talking, poor quality of expressive and receptive language, and poor oral and reading ability in school. A small effect was found for poor word association ability.

Moderate to low quality evidence finds a medium to large increased risk of childhood speech and hearing impairment in people with schizophrenia.

For more information see the technical table



*NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.*

*Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.*

*Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical enefits for all patients.*

*While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*

**HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS**

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at [neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).