

Audiology in primary health care: “Be Happy Project”

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Introduction: The partnership between Community Care Unit (UCC), which belongs to Health Centers Grouping of Baixo Mondego, Coimbra and Coimbra Health School - Audiology, started in 016 and is part of the Be Happy Project. A project that purpose concerted action, promoting healthy living habits and screening aspects that are fundamental to a child’s healthy development, and which enhance his school success: audiological, visual and others. The project involved five schools, of the school park of Celas UCC.

Objectives: Describe the methodology of the audiological screening performed within the school health of Celas UCC. Describe the results of screening in the year 2018 in children between 5 and 6 years.

Methods: Children with parental consent were evaluated by otoscopic examination, tympanogram, and hearing screening at three frequencies at 20 dB. All the children with audiological alterations are made the articulation with the family health team, which refers to the ENT consultation of the Pediatric Hospital of Coimbra.

Results: A total of 86 children (47 boys and 37 girls) were screened, of whom 17 children (20%) were referred, 12 were followed by unilateral alterations and 5 were followed by bilateral alterations.

Conclusions: The fact that the project includes families that are not attending Primary Health Care because of their vulnerability issues and low academic level, has caused an excellent reception of these and the health teams. Audiological screening contributes to an improvement in school performance through earlier intervention that enables a clearer, necessary hearing in the classroom where reading and writing learning begins.