

Outcomes of Implementing the CARE Project, Inc. with AuD and SLP Graduate Students

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Introduction:

The CARE Project Inc. (Counseling Aural Rehabilitation and Education) authored by Johnnie Sexton, Au.D, focuses on helping families and professionals understand the importance of the grief process associated with hearing loss. After attending the full CARE Project Workshop in 2011, clinical faculty began to implement a 2 hour presentation/workshop through the weekly Clinical Education Seminar for graduate students completing practicum in Aural Re/Habilitation. Pre and post surveys were completed in order to document students' perceptions regarding the grief process, counseling families, and processing of emotions.

Questions:

1. Do graduate level Au.D and SLP students view The CARE Project as an effective tool for counseling parents and children about hearing loss?
2. How can CARE be implemented in a university setting?

Pre and Post Screening Questionnaire Content

The content of the questions on the Pre and Post Screening Questionnaire included information regarding:

- Students' feelings regarding their comfort level with counseling parents and children about hearing loss (question 1 and 3 in graphs)
- Students' prior training and counseling experience
- Students' feelings regarding the importance of counseling families regarding hearing loss
- Students' feelings regarding their individual ability to counsel families (question 7 in the graphs)
- Students' knowledge of the grief process.
- Student's opinion on whether the CARE Project materials were useful in developing their ability to counsel families (question 9 in the graphs)

Procedure for Implementing The CARE Project in a University Setting

- Day 1
 - Pretest is administered to graduate level Au.D and/or SLP students.
 - Videos are shown.
- Day 2
 - Videos are shown
 - Posttest is administered to graduate level Au.D and/or SLP students

Pre and Post Screening Questionnaire Response Pool

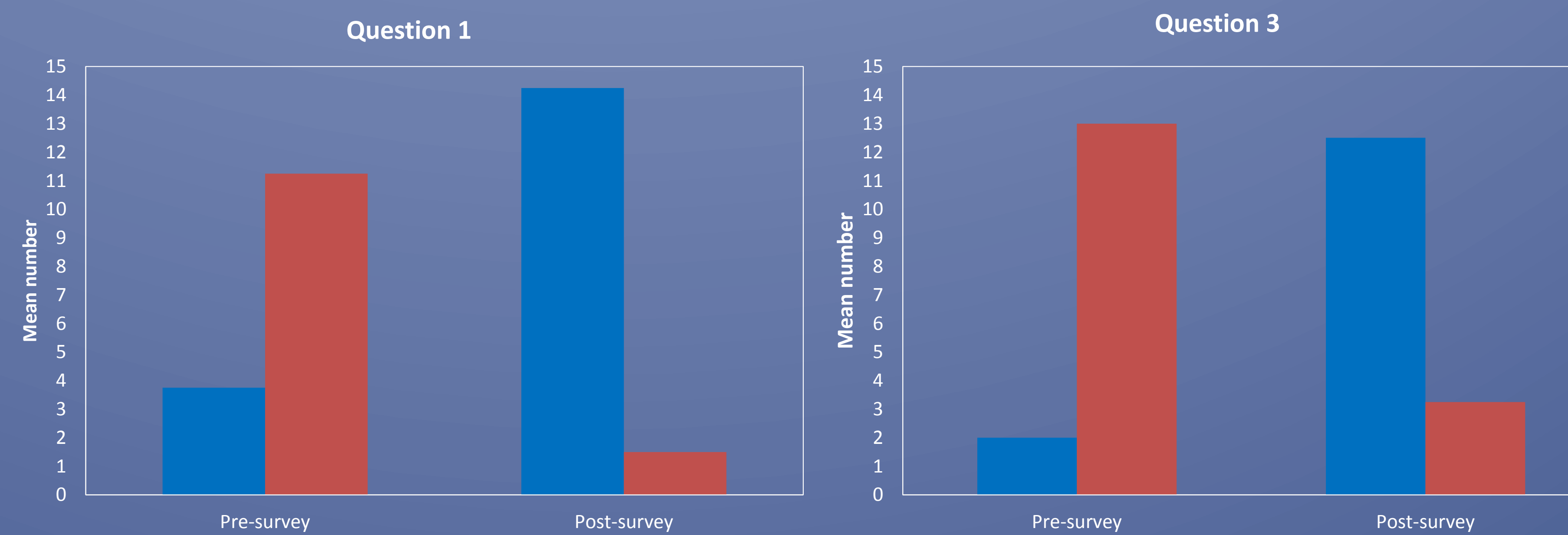
- Fall 2012—12 SLPs, 1 Au.D, 1 Child & Family Studies Students
- Spring 2013—14 Au.D Students
- Fall 2014—16 SLP Students
- Spring 2014—15 Au.D, 1 Child Family Studies Students

Watching the CARE Project really gave me some perspective on how hearing loss has a ripple effect on the individual experiencing the hearing loss, as well as the family, friends, and people surrounding that individual. People are affected in different ways, and as a future SLP it was helpful to have a better understanding on where all of these people come from. Every person's view of hearing loss is different, and it's important to understand clients' own perspectives on their hearing loss, as well as the perspectives of those around them. Grief looks different for everyone and care needs to be individualized for each person. As a clinician, that is extremely important for me to understand and respect.



Brooke Snyder, SLP Student

"As a graduate student working with individuals with hearing loss, the CARE Project has been invaluable in equipping me with the knowledge to support individuals and families through the natural grieving process."



Taylor Kavolinas, SLP Student

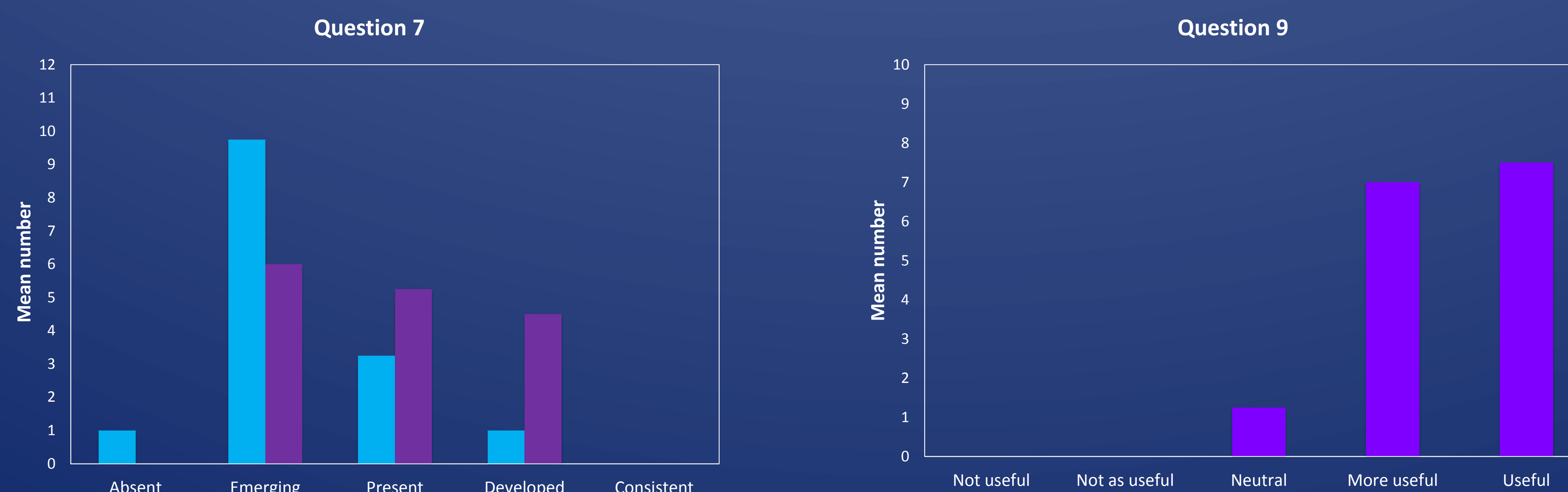
Summary

The four questions chosen to be represented are questions relating to student's feelings about counseling parents and children about hearing loss. It should be noted that after watching the CARE Project materials:

- Students felt they were more trained and prepared to counsel both parents and children about hearing loss.
- Students indicated that their individual ability to counsel families on the acceptance of hearing loss was no longer absent, but emerging, present, or developed.
- Students indicated that the CARE Project materials were useful in developing their ability to counsel families.

The CARE Project reminded me exactly why I chose this profession and why being an audiologist or speech-language pathologist is more than just a job. Hearing loss has a great impact, not only on the patient, but on the family as well. As a professional, we must remain present and supportive of these patients and families during all the emotions, tribulations, and triumphs. The CARE Project highlights how we are a part of each person's hearing journey and the impact we can have to guide people through uncharted territory.

For me, the most helpful information I gathered from the CARE Project was that grieving a child's hearing loss doesn't happen just once. Through different milestones of a child's life the parents may likely experience different types of grievance over again. It's important remain sensitive to every stage of a families grief and reflect back on the best ways to support them.



Kelly McElligott, Au.D Student



Cailin Shanahan, Au.D Student