

Iconographic application in subtitles as a tool to foster comprehension in deaf and hard of hearing children.

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According to the main objective of the project, we aim to improve interaction with people with special needs by using ICT tools, and in this case we focused on the deaf and hard of hearing children and the understanding of the audiovisual material using icons and different resources in subtitles.

This activity took place in Colegio La Purísima in Malaga, where we collected information from children between 9 and 12 years old. In the first place, we projected a short film subtitled and adapted to them, in order to do so we adapted and reduced the subtitles for its better understanding and we also used icons instead of some words to attract the attention and facilitate the understanding of the main story and sounds. After the projection, they filled a questionnaire on their habits regarding television and subtitles and also about the comprehension of the story. Most of them watched TV or films at home but not always using subtitles and most of them had implants or hearing aids, nevertheless they all communicated always by sign language.

As a conclusion, children in this activity presented some difficulties to understand specific information, however we can say that the use of icons replacing words helped them to understand better the story as well as some specific information. Therefore, increasing the number of icons and reducing even more written subtitles would be something to consider in further studies, since children also presented problems concerning literary skills and making the audiovisual material even more visual would foster a better comprehension of subtitles.

