



EHDI E-MAIL EXPRESS

The monthly newsletter of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program



SEPTEMBER 2013

This is an e-mail communication from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home" project funded through cooperative agreements with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDD). It is designed to provide AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Chapter Champions with resources and current clinical and other information. The EHDI E-Mail Express is sent on a monthly basis. Please feel free to share the EHDI E-Mail Express with colleagues working on or interested in childhood hearing detection and intervention issues. Distribution information appears on the last page.

In this issue:

- Message from your Chairperson
- Upcoming Events
- New Study: State and Territory Databases
- New Study: Low Birth Weight as Risk Indicator of Sensorineural Hearing Loss
- ECHO Initiative Monthly eNewsletter
- Still Time for 2014 EHDI Meeting Abstracts
- How to Set up or Improve State EHDI Web sites
- Words of Inspiration

FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON



Words go in... And then words come out.

I continue to be amazed by this simple formula.

Parents take a newborn baby home from the hospital. And for the next year, words go in...

Words go in, words from the parents, cooing and laughing from the parents, simple tiny one syllable words, complex mighty multi-syllable words, single words and strings of words, words read from a children's book, words read from a newspaper. Words spoken in a one-way soliloquy, and words spoken in a give-and-take conversation. Whispered words, sing-song words, joyous words, boisterous words.

And, depending on the household, sometimes signed words are going in. Words signed large, words signed small, signed in grandeur or signed in whisper, signed quickly or signed slowly, signed along with simultaneous spoken words, or signed in silence.

For months and months words go in, over and over the words go in, and the sponge-like infant brain retains the words, growing and swelling and expanding, and looking out through two inviting eyes, as if the baby might be heard to say, "Keep it coming... more words!"

Millions of words.

And as the sponge fills to bulging and overflowing, with more and more words being retained within that wet and wonderful tangle of electrical connections of the infant-brain computer memory, a few fragments of words begin to spill out. Part of a word... a coo, a fun little vowel slipping from the sponge and into the ether for others to enjoy. A babble, a consonant, and then another consonant, and then a string of almost words all connected like a little toy train, as if the wet fingers holding that soaking sponge have newly flung the droplets out into the universe. So many word fragments, and word droplets, and in some households little imperfectly signed words, little signed babbles.

And then, as the birthday is approaching, is it really... Was that a real word? Was that a real sign?

Laughter and joy and a happy tear or two, as young parents run for the baby book to write down baby's first word. And then a second word, and then a dozen words. Or a dozen signs.

And then some unseen hand twists and squeezes and wrings that still expanding sponge, and words flood out, a torrent of words and language and syntax and grammar, all cascading onto the world, all from that little sponge.

Words go in, and then words come out.

It is magic, I tell you... Magic! Thanks for being part of the magic!

- AI

UPCOMING EVENTS

| Event | Date | Location | Details |
|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Identifying and Managing Pediatric Hearing Loss Conference | October 18, 2013 | Charleston, SC | Web site |
| 2013 American Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Convention | November 14-16, 2013 | Chicago, IL | Web site |

STATE AND TERRITORY EHCI DATABASES: WHAT WE DO AND DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE HEARING OR AUDIOLOGICAL DATA FROM IDENTIFIED CHILDREN



A study published in the July edition of *American Journal of Audiology, State and Territory EHCI Databases: what we do and don't know about hearing and audiological data from identified children*, aimed to define the information currently collected by state and territory EHCI coordinators and determine if best practice guidelines are used. Study authors sent a multiple choice survey querying state and territory coordinators focused on the areas of diagnostic assessment, amplification, early intervention, and medical information regarding hearing loss. Of the nearly 70% of surveys completed, it was determined that data collected on audiologic screening and diagnostic evaluations has increased and a delay in reporting confirmed hearing loss was observed. While results were not sufficient to discern if best practices are being employed, the findings do help provide a framework to monitor quality care in states in the future.

Source: Uhler K, Thomson V, Cyr N, et al. State and Territory EHCI databases: what we do and don't know about the hearing or audiological data from identified children. *American Journal of Audiology* 2013; Jul 3 [Epub ahead of print].

EVALUATION OF VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT ($\leq 1,500$ G) AS A RISK INDICATOR FOR SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS



The study *Evaluation of very low birth weight ($\leq 1,500$ g) as a risk indicator for sensorineural hearing loss* published in *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española* ascertained the degree of sensorineural (SNHL) hearing loss and presence of the association to other risk factors for hearing loss in very low birth weight (VLBW) infants included in the Universal Hearing Loss Screening Program at the University Mother-Child Hospital of Gran Canaria (Spain) from 2007-2010. This was a retrospective study of 364 infants with VLBW, measured by transient evoked otoacoustic emissions and auditory brainstem response. Results indicated the percentage of VLBW newborns diagnosed with hearing loss is higher than expected in the general population. All those diagnosed with SNHL were premature and presented one or 2 hearing risk factors associated with VLBW.

Source: Borkoski-Barreiro SA, Falcon-Gonzalez JC, Liminana-Canal JM, et al. Evaluation of very low birth weight ($\leq 1,500$ g) as a risk indicator for sensorineural hearing loss. *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española* 2013; doi: 10.1016/j.otorri.2013.05.002.

THE ECHO INITIATIVE – PROBES & TIPS

Are you signed up to receive the Early Childhood Screening and Follow-Up (ECHO) Initiative's monthly eNewsletter ECHO Probes & Tips? The Probes and Tips newsletter provides monthly TIPS to enhance early childhood hearing screening and follow-up practices and PROBES about current activities in an effort to promote learning from one another's successes and challenges. Signing up is easy. Just enter your e-mail address [here](#) and you will begin receiving this valuable resource directly every month.

The goal of the ECHO Initiative is to provide early childhood educators and health providers with up-to-date information on recommended Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) hearing screening practices so that children 0–3 years of age with hearing health needs receive appropriate services. Learn more by visiting <http://www.infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/opportunities.html>.



2014 EHDI MEETING ABSTRACTS – THERE'S STILL TIME!



Have you submitted an abstract yet for the 2014 Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Meeting? If not, there is still time!

The deadline to submit abstracts is October 7, 2013. Additional details, guidelines, and instructions on how to submit an abstract are available at <http://ehdimeeting.org/PresenterInfo.cfm?pg=info>. Don't just attend and learn next year, be a part of the educational experience!

STATE EARLY HEARING AND DETECTION INTERVENTION (EHDI) WEB SITES



When was the last time you visited your state EHDI Web site?

Families and health care providers are often at a loss in terms of knowing where to turn when faced with a child with hearing-related concerns. One of the first places for "just in time" information is the internet, and a logical resource is your state's EHDI Web site.

Recognizing the importance of user-friendly and informative Web sites, the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has created the EHDI Web Site Resource Guide (<http://infanthearing.org/webguide/index.html>). This online tool is designed help state EHDI programs

create a high-quality Web site that serves their partners and families. For example, the guide specifies that a good EHDI Web site should include the following information about the role of primary care providers:

1. Their role in reporting results to EHDI and reporting procedure
2. Advice on how to deliver and explain hearing screening/diagnostic results to families
3. Referral sources for rescreening, diagnostic evaluations, and early intervention, including contact information for these services

The EHDI Web site Resource Guide's content was created by a panel of EHDI partners, including some members of the American Academy of Pediatrics– namely EHDI Chapter Champions Additionally, NCHAM has been recognizing those states who have worked hard to create effective Web sites through its "EHDI Web site of the Year" award presented each year at the national EHDI meeting.

This resource guide is not exhaustive in its coverage of the "ideal Web site." Rather, it is a list of guidelines that can help in deciding content for stakeholders and making the information more accessible to everyone.

NCHAM and the AAP EHDI Task Force encourage pediatricians to visit their state's EHDI Web site to help in identifying its strengths and areas of improvement to better meet the needs of pediatricians and other medical home providers and their patients and families. The Web site is an important tool to promote the mission of EHDI, and you can help guide your state's Web site content and dissemination.

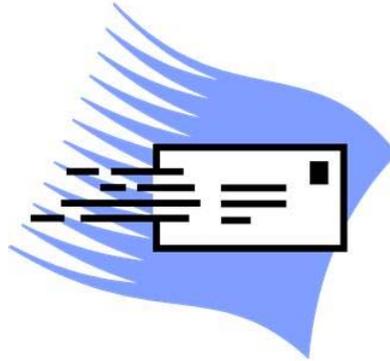
Visit your state Web site today!

WORDS OF INSPIRATION...



There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning.

~Louis L'Amour



Distribution Information:

The AAP EHDI Program implementation staff send this e-mail update to the Academy's EHDI Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, staff and state EHDI coordinators. For additional information on hearing screening and to access previous editions of the EHDI E-mail Express, click on the following link <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/PEHDIC/Pages/Early-Hearing-Detection-and-Intervention.aspx>. Previous e-mail updates are available upon request from Faiza Khan, fkhan@aap.org or (847) 434-4924. If you would like to unsubscribe to the update, please notify staff by responding to this e-mail.