

Indiana EHDI Matters

Indiana State Department of Health
Division of Maternal and Child Health - Genomics and Newborn Screening
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI Program)

Welcome to the first edition of the Indiana EHDI Matters Newsletter! We hope you will find it helpful in keeping you informed on upcoming events, new EHDI initiatives and important information regarding children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, caregivers, medical providers and other stakeholders.

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EHDI—Who are we and what do we do?

The mission of the Indiana EHDI program is to identify children as deaf or hard of hearing as early as possible, and enhance their development and opportunities for success through appropriate programming and intervention. Our goal is to develop, maintain and enhance systems in the state of Indiana that support that mission. One baby at a time, Indiana EHDI is committed to the best possible communicative, educational and social outcomes for these children.

- **LEADING:** Indiana was one of the first states to mandate universal newborn hearing screening (beginning in 2000) and continues to be a national leader in maintaining low lost-to-follow-up rates and early identification for deaf and hard of hearing children.
- **FINDING:** Hearing loss is an invisible condition that affects 2-3 out of every 1000 newborns. Given an approximate 84,000 annual births, anywhere from 160-250 children with hearing loss could be born each year in Indiana. The majority of these children are born to parents that have normal hearing.
- **HELPING:** EHDI encourages all stakeholders to follow the 1-3-6 guideline (more details on that

guideline may be found below). Research has indicated that early intervention (prior to age 6 months) is critical to successful outcomes for children who are born deaf or hard of hearing (Yoshinaga-Itano, 1998).

- **TRACKING:** EHDI maintains a statewide database to record and monitor children who do not pass newborn hearing screening, or pass with risk factors for late-onset hearing loss and require follow-up.
- **CONNECTING:** EHDI works closely with the Indiana Guide By Your Side program to provide parent-to-parent support. This program connects parents of children that have been newly identified as deaf or hard of hearing with trained Parent Guides.

Through state funding and federal grants, we strive to maintain a program that provides a valuable service to the residents of the state of Indiana. This would not be possible without the everyday efforts of stakeholders throughout the state. Collaboration is key to ensure positive outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing!



1-3-6: What does it mean?

1-3-6 is the motto of the EHDl program. It represents the mission and purpose that we strive to achieve.

If you want to learn more about how you can help us achieve these goals, please contact our office anytime!

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All newborns should be **screened by age one month**. In other words, we should know the result of a hearing screening by 1 month of age. Screenings are usually performed prior to the baby leaving the hospital after birth. Babies who are born outside of a hospital will usually need to set up a screening independent from their midwife, although some midwives do offer hearing screening.

3

All infants that do not pass the hearing screening should have confirmation of hearing status (or be “**identified**”) by **three months of age**. This testing should be completed by an audiologist with pediatric experience.

6

All infants that were identified as deaf or hard of hearing should be **enrolled in early intervention services by six months of age**. The sooner intervention begins, the less likely it is that the infant falls behind his/her peers in regards to language, social, cognitive and emotional development.

Have questions? Please contact us to let us know information you would like to see in future newsletters!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS OF INTEREST

March 13-15, 2016: 15th Annual National EHDl Meeting, San Diego, CA

March 19, 2016: Indiana EHDl Family Conference, Fishers, IN

April 13-16, 2016: Audiology NOW (American Academy of Audiology Conference), Phoenix, AZ

April 13-16, 2016: Indiana Speech Language Hearing Association (ISHA) Conference

Introduction to Audiology and Hearing Loss Webinar for Non-Audiologists (recorded): www.infanthearing.org

Ototoxicity Webinar (recorded): www.infanthearing.org

EHDl for Primary Care Providers Webinar (recorded): www.aap.org

Watch future issues for our *Staff Spotlight*, which will feature more detailed information on our EHDl staff members and their positions!

INDIANA RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (CDHHE): www.in.gov/isdh/25883.htm

The center supports parental choice, including the full continuum of communication options (including American sign language, other forms of sign language, cued speech, listening and spoken language (oral), or any combination of these skills), with the goal “to ensure that children who are deaf and children who are hard of hearing acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities, regardless of the mode of communication used”.

Hear Indiana: www.hearindiana.org/

Hear Indiana is an organization that empowers and supports families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hear Indiana “ensures that parents who wish to have their child attend a mainstream school, have equal access early intervention (e.g., hearing aids and appropriate therapy)”.

Indiana First Steps: www.in.gov/fssa/4655.htm

The goal of the Indiana’s First Steps System is to help Hoosier families make sure their infants and toddlers receive services to help them in the future. First Steps brings together families with a local network of professionals from education, health and social service agencies. Services are coordinated to give the child the widest possible array of early intervention resources. First Steps is available in every county in Indiana.

Indiana Hands & Voices: www.inhandsandvoices.org/

Indiana Chapter of Hands and Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Hands & Voices is dedicated to “supporting families with children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology”.

Indiana School for the Deaf: www.deafhoosiers.com/

The Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) is a fully accredited school for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students in nursery school through high school. The Indiana School for the Deaf is “committed to providing meaningful learning opportunities for students that foster academic and social excellence where languages and diversity are valued”.

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf: www.sjid.org

This institute is an educational option for children with hearing loss. Its mission is “committed to the auditory-oral education, spiritual and emotional growth, and personal development of hearing-impaired children and young adults, without discrimination”. There is a campus in Indianapolis which has programs for children from early intervention to preschool and early elementary years.

Our next issue will feature a list of national resources for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families – stay tuned!

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**We're on the web! Check out
our newly updated website at:**

www.hearing.in.gov



**Indiana State
Department of Health**
Early Hearing Detection
and Intervention Program

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