



EHDI E-MAIL EXPRESS

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 a cooperative agreement 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 (NCBDDD). 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 at the end of this e-mail.

AUGUST 2010



2011 EHDI CONFERENCE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION NOW OPEN

Abstracts are now being accepted for the 10th Annual EHDI Conference! The 2011 EHDI Conference will be in Atlanta on February 21-22, 2011. Submissions may be considered for a breakout session or a poster session. This year's tracks include: EHDI Program Enhancement; Audiological Assessment and Intervention; Early Intervention and Beyond; Medical Home; Follow-Up, Tracking, and Data Management; Family Issues; EHDI Workforce Issues; Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance; and Policy, Advocacy, and Legislative Issues. Abstracts are due by September 17 and contributors will be notified of abstract acceptance by November 3. For more information, please visit <http://ehdiconference.org/AbstractSubmittal.cfm>. **The AAP highly encourages all EHDI Chapter Champions to consider submitting an abstract!**

PEDIATRICS SUPPLEMENT: IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN WITH EARLY HEARING LOSS

A supplement to the August 2010 issue of *Pediatrics* titled "Improving the System of Care for Infants and Children with Early Hearing Loss" features a series of articles highlighting the challenges that remain to be addressed to ensure early diagnosis and intervention for all children with early hearing loss. In a foreword to the supplement, Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop reflects on how far we have come in implementing the screening program, and expresses optimism that remaining problems can be solved through collaborative efforts, data-driven quality improvement activities, and creative uses of new technology. To view the supplement, please visit http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/vol126/Supplement_1/.

SPOTLIGHT

- ◆ Abstract Submissions for the 2011 EHDI Conference
- ◆ Pediatrics Supplement—Systems of Care for Infants and Children with Early Hearing Loss
- ◆ Ear Tubes and Cochlear Implants
- ◆ Introducing New Members of the Task Force
- ◆ Online Resources from Let Them Hear Foundation
- ◆ August Inspiration

CHILDREN WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS SAFELY USE EAR TUBES

According to a recent study at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), children with cochlear implants may safely use ear tubes to reduce the risk of ear infection. Over 60 children between the ages of 1 and 5 years were involved in this study. The children either had ear tubes at the time of cochlear implantation, or had the tubes removed prior to implantation. Very few cases of cochlear implantation while ear tubes were present resulted in eardrum damage. Audie Woolley, MD, an otolaryngologist, led the study with a UAB medical resident and audiologists from Children's Hospital of Alabama. As Dr Woolley stated, "Getting rid of an ear infection and minimizing the risk of ear infection, especially for a child who is identified as a good candidate for cochlear implants, is very important." For additional information, please visit <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/MediaRelations/articles/78203/>.

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

We recently had some changes to the AAP Task Force on Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis, and Intervention. Please welcome our newest members: Dr Martin Beals, Dr Brad Golner, and Dr Debra Waldron. Martin Beals, MD, FAAP, AK EHDI Chapter Champion and Brad Golner, MD, FAAP, AZ EHDI Chapter Champion will replace Dr. Orfanakis overseeing Regions X (AK, ID, OR, WA) and IX (AZ, CA, HI, NV, GU), respectively. Both have demonstrated a great deal of commitment to the EHDI cause and have been strong members of the EHDI Chapter Champion network. Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP is the Title V Director for CSHCN in Iowa and the Medical Director for the IA System of Care for EHDI who will be replacing Dr Brookhouser and responsible for Region VII (IA, KS, MO, NE). She is another passionate EHDI advocate who will add great value to the Task Force.

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS FROM LET THEM HEAR FOUNDATION

In response to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA), the Let Them Hear Foundation created and recently launched a new online resource for parents and professionals working with children with disabilities. The resource center provides information on the identification and referral of disabilities, determining eligibility for special education and services based on IDEA 2004, how to find service providers in your area, and various behavioral issues that may be encountered. Articles are tailored specifically for professionals, parents of children with cochlear implants, parents of children who are hard of hearing, parents of children who are deaf, and parents of children with one of the other 12 disability categories identified by IDEA 2004. All resources are available in both English and Spanish. For more information or to access the resource, please visit <http://idea.letthemhear.org>.

AUGUST INSPIRATION

"I can say that I've reinvented myself from a clumsy kid with wires coming out of a box strapped to my chest to someone who you might be surprised has a hearing problem. My biggest challenges, however, have been my social relationships and my relationship to myself." -Matthew Martin, NYU Graduate Student, hearing loss identified at age of 5