



# 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 (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 at the end of this e-mail.

OCTOBER 2010



## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FOR HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN

The CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities has launched a new website on hearing loss in children. There are specific pages for families, health care providers, EHDI programs, and national partners. The site contains statistical data on hearing loss, and information on prevention, signs and symptoms, screening and diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss. An overview of CDC and other partners' initiatives, as well as updates from research projects and scientific publications can also be found on the new site. Free materials are available for download. Please visit the site at [www.cdc.gov/hearingloss](http://www.cdc.gov/hearingloss) and take advantage of the wealth of resources provided.

## SSI BENEFITS NOW COVER CHILDREN WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

The Social Security Administration recently released *Revised Criteria for Evaluating Hearing Loss*. Prior to June 2, 2010, children with cochlear implants did not qualify for Social Security Income (SSI). Final Rules have now been published in the Federal Register that extend SSI benefits to children with cochlear implants up to age 5, or for at least one year after implantation, whichever comes later. The docket states, "The revisions reflect our adjudicative experience, advances in medical knowledge, treatment, and methods of evaluating hearing loss, and public comments we received." For additional information, please visit this link: <http://federalregister.gov/a/2010-13094>.

## SPOTLIGHT

- ◆ CDC Launches New Website on Hearing Loss
- ◆ SSI Benefits Extended to Children with Cochlear Implants
- ◆ Better Developmental Outcomes with Newborn Hearing Screening
- ◆ ACMG Releases *Hearing Loss, Genetics, and Your Child*
- ◆ *Sound Beginnings* Webinar Available Online
- ◆ October Inspiration

## STUDY INDICATES BETTER DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES FOR NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING THAN WITH LATER HEARING SCREENING

According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* this October, children ages 3 to 5 with permanent hearing loss who were identified by newborn hearing screening had better developmental outcomes than those whose hearing loss was detected by later hearing screening. The study took place in the Netherlands from 2003 through 2005, at a time when all regions of the country were transitioning from distraction (behavioral) hearing screening to newborn hearing screening. The outcomes measured included: education; spoken communication; signed communication; general development; language development; and quality of life. The complete study can be found at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/304/15/1701>.

## HEARING LOSS, GENETICS, AND YOUR CHILD

The American College of Medical Genetics, through a cooperative agreement with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Genetic Services Branch, recently released *Hearing Loss, Genetics, and Your Child*, a resource for parents of children with hearing loss. English and Spanish versions of the brochures can be downloaded at [www.nccrcg.org](http://www.nccrcg.org) under the "Resources" tab. The publication guides parents through the basics of genetics and hearing loss, explains why it may be important for a child with hearing loss to see a geneticist, what can be expected at a visit with a geneticist, and general information on payment for genetic services. The brochure also includes an editable area for providers to include information specific to a practice or patient.

## SOUND BEGINNINGS: CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

On Tuesday, October 26, the AAP's Program to Enhance the Health and Development of Infants and Children, a cooperative agreement with the CDC, hosted the CME-bearing webinar *Sound Beginnings: Changing the World for Children with Hearing Loss*. Over 200 individuals from across the country participated in the event led by Karl White, PhD, and Susan Wiley, MD. A media file of the webinar may be downloaded at this link: [http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/Webinar\\_ChildhoodHearingLoss.wmv](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/Webinar_ChildhoodHearingLoss.wmv).

This webinar was the second installment of the three-part *Birth Defect Prevention and Identification Webinar Series*. *Medications Use During Pregnancy: What the Pediatrician Needs to Know* took place on Thursday, September 23, and is now available here: [http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/Webinar\\_MedsUseDuringPregnancy.wmv](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/downloads/Webinar_MedsUseDuringPregnancy.wmv). The final webinar, *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the Foster Care System*, will be on Thursday, November 18. Additional information regarding registration will be forthcoming.

## OCTOBER INSPIRATION

"The most valuable advice we were ever given was to 'let the child lead you.' We knew that we could pick a strategy, but that each individual child would show us what they preferred, and we could change our minds at any time. It has been a long and sometimes frustrating road, but we now feel like our experiences have made us a closer and stronger family."

—Brooklyn Walter, Co-President, Pennsylvania Hands and Voices