The Beginnings Book

Audiologists are key distribution point

The Beginnings Book – Understanding Your Child’s Hearing Loss: A Guide for Parents is a booklet intended for parents of children newly diagnosed with permanent or presumed longstanding hearing loss. MDH supplies the Beginnings Book to clinics so that audiologists can give books to parents at the diagnostic appointment. A cover page from MDH outlines the support organizations that will be contacting the family (including parent guides from MN Hands & Voices and Local Public Health nurses). It also explains the different kinds of support each organization can provide. The goal is that parents all receive the same basic information about the ear and types of hearing loss, amplification options, intervention services, and language modality options to support their child’s speech and language development.

In 2010, the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee recommended this book in order to provide a standard set of materials to parents quickly after identification of hearing loss. The Committee also believed that the information should be provided in a consistent way throughout the state. Recognizing that audiologists are often the first source of trusted information for families, the Committee recommended that audiologists be the ones to disseminate this information. Instead of developing something new, the Committee recommended the use of the Beginnings Book, developed and written by BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc., based in North Carolina. The material is expected to be updated in the coming year.

MDH data from 2014-2016 show that 60% of parents reported receiving the Beginnings Book. This means that about 40% report NOT receiving the book. Upon investigation of many variables, families across all groups are among those not receiving this resource, even families of very young infants.

The information included in this book is appropriate for families of children of all ages and books are printed in English and Spanish. MDH provides this book free to audiology clinics. To ensure your clinic’s supply, order books from MDH by using this order form. Please contact the MDH EHDI program to give your feedback on using the Beginnings Book in your clinic. We welcome your thoughts!

Did you know? Meeting All Three EHDI Goals = Better Vocabulary!

Early Hearing Detection and Vocabulary of Children with Hearing Loss (Yoshinaga-Itano, et.al), a new study published in the August 2017 issue of Pediatrics, found that vocabulary quotients were significantly higher for children who met all three EHDI goals (screen by 1 month, diagnosis by 3 months, intervention by 6 months). The authors concluded that this finding underscores the importance that EHDI systems enable more infants to meet all of the 1-3-6 goals. Minnesota data in 2014 indicated 42% of infants who received diagnosis were not diagnosed by 3 months, and 30% of infants who did not pass (inpatient and outpatient screening) still did not have any documented diagnosis and were considered lost to follow-up/documentation.
Have You Heard?

NEW! Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) resources from Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Two new educational resources about cCMV are available for healthcare professionals from the CDC.

- Identifying Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) Early in Life: Information for Healthcare Providers
- Talking with Pregnant Patients about CMV: A resource for Healthcare Providers

The first item includes guidance for infants diagnosed with cCMV and are asymptomatic at birth who may still develop hearing loss and need regular hearing evaluations. The second item targets obstetric healthcare providers, and outlines behaviors that may reduce a pregnant woman’s risk of contracting CMV.

EHDI parent resource binder now available online!

“What you Need to Know: Resources for Families,” the parent resource binder that MDH mails to families of infants with confirmed hearing loss, is now available online. Parents now have access to this resource immediately after diagnosis on the EHDI website at http://improveehdi.org/mn/resources.cfm or through direct link http://bit.ly/2vmx4KM. Families will still be receiving a print version through the mail. However audiologists can provide this link to families at the time of diagnosis so that important information (i.e. financial support for hearing devices) is available in advance of the hard copy.

Last Words from the Advisory Committee

Meeting highlights...

- Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf shared their program information
- Preliminary Learning Outcomes data reported to MN Department of Education (MDE) was reviewed (data will be available in the MDE 2018 legislative report)
- Data regarding Minnesota infants & children with confirmed hearing loss during 2016 was reviewed and will be posted in the upcoming EHDI annual report
- Update on the joint Cytomegalovirus study between the University of Minnesota, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Next meeting: November 15, 2017 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Wilder Foundation 451 Lexington Parkway North St. Paul, MN 55104

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