SOUND MATTERS

Audiology Newsletter of the Minnesota Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2019 • ISSUE 3

After-Visit Summary for Parents

Learning their child is Deaf/Hard of Hearing can be an emotional event for families. At the time of diagnosis, emotions can affect their ability to retain spoken recommendations for next steps in their child's journey. Some families appreciate having this information in written form so they clearly understand the resources that are available and the organizations that will be reaching out to support them.

Some of your Minnesota audiology colleagues have developed a model script to provide parents with a written summary of important details. They drop pertinent parts of the script into an after-visit summary and print this for parents to take home. They have modified this script with feedback from parents. Excerpts of main ideas are below in italics for other audiologists to adapt and use in their own clinics if they wish.

- *Today's test results indicate xxxx. This is a permanent hearing status, and is not expected to change.*
- *Supporting speech and language development is important. Use of hearing aids and/or sign language is recommended. Your child is scheduled for an appointment on xx/xx/xx to talk more about this. If amplification is chosen, medical clearance by a physician will be needed.*
- *Further medical testing is often recommended to determine a cause for hearing loss, and if there may be other related health risks. Please contact your child's primary care provider to discuss this or review with or an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Specialist.*
- *Our clinic will contact you within the next 5 days to schedule an evaluation with an ENT specialist, or you can call xxx to do this yourself. The ENT may also suggest a genetic work-up.*
- *Vision is very important for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children, and vision testing is recommended. Please call xxx to schedule an appointment with an ophthalmologist (eye specialist).*
- *We will make a referral through Help Me Grow, and your school district will contact you to discuss support for your child's growth and development. This support is at no cost to you. You can also reach Help Me Grow directly at 1-866-693-GROW or http://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/index.htm.*
- *A parent guide from Minnesota Hands & Voices will contact you. This program is staffed by parents of children who have hearing loss, to provide information and support. You can also reach them directly at 651-265-2434 or http://bit.ly/wisMXw.*

Did you know?

Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee Update

The Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee sunset was officially extended through June 30, 2025. Two new groups were added to Minnesota Statute 144.966 Subd. 2 (b) to have representation on the committee, increasing the total number of mandated advisors to 23. The new appointments include a representative from the Deaf Mentor Program and the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf.

Have You Heard?

Childhood Hearing Loss Question Prompt List

Parents of children newly identified as deaf and hard of hearing may have difficulty remembering to discuss concerns or questions they have during their child's audiology appointments. To help encourage improved communication and more family centered clinical practices, the Phonak pediatric group developed a Question Prompt List (QPL) that parents might wish to discuss with their audiology care team. The list includes common 'frequently asked questions' and provides a written reference to encourage active parental participation in fact-based and emotional-based questions. Four translated versions are available.

Some of your Minnesota colleagues who have used this tool have said, "I like that it is another tool to connect with families. Some families will ask me questions from it, and some just take it and never mention it again. I do plan to continue using it."

Latest JEHDI is available

The latest issue (Volume 3, Issue 2) of The Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (JEHDI) is now available at https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/jehdi/vol3/iss2/1/.

Last Words from the Advisory Committee

Meeting highlights...

- Updates to *Hearing Screening After the Newborn Period to Kindergarten Guideline* were approved by committee vote.
- Minnesota Hands & Voices provided an overview of the support they provide for families of children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

Next meeting:

August 21, 2019
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
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