

the NCHAM

© Book

A Resource Guide
for Early Hearing
Detection &
Intervention (EHDI)

goal To ensure all infants & toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible & provided with timely & appropriate audiological, educational, & medical intervention.

NCHAM
National Center for Hearing
Assessment and Management
Utah State University™

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Acknowledgements

We hope you enjoy this edition of the NCHAM eBook and share your enthusiasm with others.

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) would not be where it is today without the enthusiastic spirit of sharing exhibited by everyone concerned. For years, we instinctively knew that identifying hearing loss early in life would provide distinct advantages for children. Despite our best efforts, even as recently as the '70s, the average age of identification of hearing loss remained stubbornly at 2.5 to 4 years. The late Marion Downs and her Junior League volunteers were “beeping babies” in the newborn nursery then and demonstrated that newborn hearing screening was not only possible but necessary. She shared the information at every opportunity and gave us the motivation to improve equipment and techniques so every baby could have the advantage of early identification. Fred Bess and Jack Paradise challenged us to prove the efficacy of newborn hearing screening and early intervention . . . and prove it we did. Dedicated researchers clearly demonstrated the advantages of early identification and intervention—proving once and for all what we all instinctively knew was really the case.

In the almost 50 years since those pioneering efforts, we are now screening the vast majority of babies born in this country and are in the process of resolving the issues of loss to follow-up and timely intervention. Many dedicated professionals, as well as families, have shared their expertise and experience with everyone willing to listen. To try to name them all would be impossible, since so many people from many professions and families have contributed to make EHDI what it is today.

I would like to think this eBook exemplifies the sharing spirit that has been so pervasive everywhere in the EHDI community. Our authors have enthusiastically shared the fruits of their expertise and experience on all aspects of the topic. As much as possible, we are committed to have this publication reflect the great diversity of information, ideas, and opinions present in the EHDI community. There are very few absolutes in this arena. What works for one program or family may not be appropriate for another. Children and their families are unique. Helping families along their journey into the complex world of the deaf and hard of hearing requires each of us to be knowledgeable, resourceful, open to new ideas, and willing to share our experience.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the NCHAM eBook and share your enthusiasm with others. We would appreciate your feedback about what you like, what needs improvement, and any ideas you have regarding additional material you would like to see in the 2016 edition.

Special thanks to Dr. Karl White and the entire NCHAM staff and to the newly formed eBook Advisory Board (Diane Behl, Karen Ditty, Todd Houston, Marilyn Sass-Lehrer, and Lucia Sumner) for their assistance and support. Finally, thanks to Deb Risk for her awesome skills in making us all look great in print.

Les R. Schmeltz, AuD, Editor

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