



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Makes A Difference

Improving Vocabulary Outcomes in Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A 2017 study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH):



and met all of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) 1-3-6 guidelines significantly increased their vocabulary outcomes.



who enrolled in early intervention by 6 months of age have the best opportunity for optimal vocabulary outcomes.

What else did the study show?



All children who met the 1-3-6 guidelines had better vocabulary outcomes, including children who had additional disabilities or mothers with lower levels of education.



There was no significant relationship between vocabulary outcomes and language of the home (English or Spanish).



Meeting all EHDI 1-3-6 benchmarks helped all children, regardless of their hearing thresholds or other determining factors.



A D/HH adult in the home had a positive impact on vocabulary.



448 children

The study included 448 children:

- With bilateral hearing differences
- Ages 8 to 39 months
- Living across 12 states



1

Hearing screening by 1 month

3

Identification of hearing levels by 3 months

6

Enrollment in intervention by 6 months

What are the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines?

The EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines are key benchmarks that help identify children who are D/HH and ensure they start receiving intervention early.

Successfully implementing the EHDI guidelines requires a team approach to ensure timely transitions from screening to identification to intervention. The team should including the following:

- Pediatricians
- Newborn screening personnel
- Audiologists
- Deaf mentors
- Early interventionists
- State-based EHDI surveillance programs
- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers of the D/HH

What can health care providers do?



Routinely check to ensure your patients are meeting the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines



Encourage and help parents to make sure their child meets the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines



Encourage early intervention specialized for D/HH children



Make sure you understand the reporting requirements in your state:
<https://www.infanthearing.org/states/index.html>



Stress the importance of incorporating D/HH adults in their lives. This leads to better outcomes in communication.



Help parents understand the risks of late identification and the life-long benefits for their child in meeting the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines

Where can I learn more?

Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program web page for more information and helpful resources: <https://www.aap.org/ehdi>



What can we learn from additional research?

Future studies can look at related variables such as the following:

- Parent-to-parent support
- Parent-child interaction
- Intensity of intervention services
- Characteristics of early intervention providers and programs
- Incorporating adults who are D/HH in the Early Intervention process
- Child's time using amplification
- Information shared with families
- Deaf community involvement



Early Hearing Detection & Intervention

a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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