

Child Health Notes

Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by the Lewis County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Parent to Parent. **Contributors:**
Washington Department of Health and the University of Washington Children with Special Health Care Needs.



"I'm glad we discovered her hearing loss so early. I'm concerned about her language developing, and the earlier she can develop sounds, the better."

--Parent of child
identified by newborn
hearing screening with a
sensorineural hearing
loss.



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EARLY HEARING-LOSS DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND INTERVENTION (EHDDI)

The goals of the Washington State Dept. of Health EHDDI Program are that:

- **Every infant born in Washington will receive hearing screening prior to hospital discharge or by one month of age**
- **Every infant referred from newborn hearing screening will receive a diagnostic audiologic evaluation by 3 months of age**
- **Every infant identified with hearing loss will be enrolled in early intervention by 6 months of age.**

The guidelines of the EHDDI program in Washington state are in line with clinical practices nationally. The recommendation for universal newborn hearing screening is supported by the NIH Consensus conference (1993) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Position Statement on Infant Hearing (2000).

CURRENT STATUS IN WASHINGTON STATE:

Nearly all birthing hospitals in Washington state have universal newborn hearing screening programs, making newborn hearing screening the standard of care. In 2005, 94% of all newborns in WA were screened for hearing loss; this is projected to rise. While most infants pass the screening, those who do not pass need further testing. Each year in Washington State approximately 233 babies are born with hearing loss.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hearing loss affects 3 in 1000 babies. It is one of the most frequently occurring birth defects, more common than PKU or congenital adrenal hyperplasia, for example.
- 95% of infants with hearing loss are born to parents with **normal** hearing.
- Over 50% of infants with hearing loss have *no known risk factors* for hearing loss.
- The national average age for identifying hearing loss in children not screened at birth is 18-24 mos.

What kind of hearing testing is appropriate for infants and young children?

For infants under 6 months of age, physiological testing is appropriate. Either otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) or brainstem auditory evoked responses (BAER, ABR) are appropriate screening tools. Both OAE and frequency-specific BAER testing are necessary to diagnose a hearing loss.

For infants and children over 6 months of age, behavioral testing is appropriate for screening and diagnosing hearing loss. OAE and BAER testing may be needed if behavioral testing is not successful.

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LOCAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

For children under age three:

Living in Centralia Chehalis School Districts only
 Living in any Lewis County School District

Contact:

Growing Together 748-2277 or Student Support 807-7245
 In-tot Developmental Center 748-4359 or 1-888-548-4359

For children age three and older:

Within Centralia Chehalis School Districts
 Outside Centralia Chehalis School Districts

Contact:

Local school district
 Lewis County Special Education Coop 748-3384 or local elementary school

EHDDI INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

Local:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/genetics/ehddi/Documents/Pediatric_Audiology_Services_Guide.pdf

The clinics listed in the link above have indicated they meet the requirements of the Washington State Department of Health Protocol for Diagnostic Audiological Assessment of Infants Referred from Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) Programs. Choose from this list clinics in your area you wish to list.

Regional:

EHDDI Program
 Washington State Department of Health

206-418-5613
ehddi2@doh.wa.gov

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
 Wendy Harrison, MS, CCC-A

206-987-2457, 1-888-365-7767
wendy.harrison@seattlechildrens.org

Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS)
 (425) 917-7827

www.wsdsonline.org
 Email: wdsd@psesd.org

Internet:

DOH Website on EHDDI

www.doh.wa.gov/ehddi

DOH Protocol for Newborn Hearing Screening

www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/newborn_protocol.pdf

DOH Pediatric Audiology Services Guide, and Protocol for Diagnostic Audiological Assessment: Follow-up for Newborn Hearing Screening

www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/genetics/ehddi/Images/Pediatric_Audiology_Services_Guide.pdf

DOH Best Practice Guidelines in Early Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss

www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/Best_Practices.pdf

Children's Hospital Newborn Hearing Screening Website

www.newborn-hearing-screening.org

WA State Medical Home Website – Hearing Information

www.medicalhome.org/health/hearing.cfm

**Lewis County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month
 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Department of Developmental Disabilities at 1000 Kresky Ave. in Centralia

Lewis County Interagency Coordinating Council This meeting is focused on services provided for families of children birth to 5 with developmental delays. There are seats open for parents to attend, listen and participate in how to better serve families. Mileage reimbursement and FREE childcare is available when you call in advance. For more information contact Rayna Austin at 360-748-4359.

In 2006, 3700 children in Washington State were transitioned out of ITEIP programs. Of those children, 858 no longer required special education services. For more information please call you local ITEIP program, In-Tot at 748-4359.