Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Family and Educational Support
Presenters

The VT Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program - hosted by Nine East Network

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Overview

Who we are

VDHHP - Vermont’s State Supported program

Hearing Loss

  Basic hearing anatomy

  Types and degrees

  Eligibility

Effects on Child Development

Federal EHDI (Early Hearing, Detection and Intervention)
What is Hearing Loss?

Hearing loss, also known as hearing impairment, is a partial or total inability to hear.

A deaf person has little to no hearing.

Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears.

In children, hearing problems can affect the ability to learn language.
Types of Hearing Loss
Conductive Hearing Loss

When sound is not conducted efficiently through the outer ear canal to the eardrum and the tiny bones (ossicles) of the middle ear. Usually involves a reduction in sound level or the ability to hear faint sounds. Often can be corrected medically or surgically.

Common Causes:

- Fluid in the middle ear from colds
- Ear infection (otitis media)
- Allergies (serous otitis media)
- Impacted earwax (cerumen)
- Infection in the ear canal (external otitis)
Sensorineural Hearing Loss

Occurs when there is damage to the inner ear (cochlea), or to the nerve pathways from the inner ear to the brain. Most of the time, SNHL cannot be medically or surgically corrected. This is the most common type of permanent hearing loss.

Possible Causes:

- Illnesses
- Drugs that are toxic to hearing
- Hearing loss that runs in the family (genetic or hereditary)
- Aging
- Head trauma
- Malformation of the inner ear
- Exposure to loud noise
Mixed Hearing Loss

When a **conductive hearing loss** occurs in combination with a **sensorineural hearing loss**.

There may be damage in the **outer** or **middle ear** and in the **inner ear** (cochlea) or auditory nerve.
The mission of Nine East Network’s DHH Program is to empower children through language development and access to communication.

Parent Infant Program (PIP) for children birth to three and their families

This is part of Children’s Integrated Services

We provide information, training and resources to families

School Age Services for children aged 3 - High School graduation.

State and locally funded by school districts

Services could be provided under special education entitlement or 504, or even a school’s Educational Support Service System.
Criteria for Eligibility

Follows the rules for IDEA - part C and part B

Hearing Loss means deafness or hard of hearing as determined by an audiologist, otologist, or otolaryngologist, and demonstrated by a 25 decibel HL threshold (ANSI, 69) or worse for one or more of the frequencies 250-8000HZ, in one or both ears, with or without amplification.
Possible Effects on Child Development

- Expressive and Receptive Language

- Social Skills
  - Pragmatic/Social Language (http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/pragmatics/)

- Articulation

- Behavioral - Attention Deficit Disorder and Mild/Fluctuating hearing loss symptoms look virtually identical (inattentive, talks out of turn, difficulty following directions, difficulty sustaining attention for long periods…)

- Low self esteem

(The effect of hearing loss is not always dependent on the severity of hearing loss. Mild hearing loss can...
EHDI - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

To ensure that all newborns have the opportunity to communicate from birth, the CDC's EHDI program is a part of continuing national efforts to promote:

The early detection of hearing loss.

The tracking of infants/children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The initiation of effective intervention systems.
Parent Infant Program

- **Family Centered Care**
  - Home or Daycare based
  - Unbiased and evidence-based information and resources
  - Focuses on the family’s priorities and concerns
    - Discuss hearing loss and hearing equipment
    - Communication opportunities (American Sign Language (ASL), Listening and Spoken Language, Cued Speech, Sign Supported Speech)
    - Collaborate with other service providers
American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complex visual-spatial language that is used by the Deaf community in the United States and English-speaking parts of Canada. It is a linguistically complete, natural language. It is the native language of many Deaf men and women, as well as some hearing children born into Deaf families.
Listening and Spoken Language

Relies on children being taught to listen and speak with early intervention and consistent training to develop their hearing potential. The focus of this educational approach is to use the auditory channel (or hearing) to acquire speech and oral language. Appropriate technology and educational training maximizes the effectiveness of this approach.
Cued Speech is a visual system of communication used with and among deaf or hard-of-hearing people. It is a phonemic-based system which makes traditionally spoken languages accessible by using a small number of handshapes, known as cues, (representing consonants) in different locations near the mouth (representing vowels), as a supplement to speechreading.
Sign Supported Speech, Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE), Simultaneous Communication

These refer simply to the simultaneous use of sign and spoken language. It is driven by the natural word order of English, key words are emphasized, and most often does not include function words and word endings.
School Age Program

Our focus is to foster access to education

Consultation

Teachers of the Deaf, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists

Assigned by regions

Currently 11 consultants

Direct service

Sign instruction for families or school teams provided by qualified individuals

Aural rehabilitation for cochlear implant users

Self Advocacy
Accommodations/Modifications

Instructional accommodations or modifications

Curricular modifications

Physical environment accommodations

Communication accommodations

Evaluation accommodations or modifications

Other needs/considerations
Amplification Accommodations

- Personal hearing instrument (hearing aid, cochlear implant, Baha, tactile device)
- Personal FM/DM (hearing aid + FM or FM only)
- Hearing assistance technology (without personal hearing instrument)
- Wide area sound distribution system
Communication Accommodations

- Priority seating arrangement:
- Obtain student's attention prior to speaking
- Reduce auditory distractions (background noise)
- Reduce visual distractions
- Enhance speechreading conditions (avoid hands in front of face, mustaches well-trimmed, no gum chewing)
- Present information in simple, structured, sequential manner
- Clearly enunciate speech
- Extra time for processing information
- Repeat or rephrase information when necessary
- Frequent checks for understanding
- Speech to text software (speech recognition) • Interpreting (ASL, signed English, cued speech, oral)
Instructional Accommodations & Modifications

- Visual supplements (overheads, charts, vocabulary lists, lecture outlines)
- Interactive whiteboard (e.g., Smart Board, Mimio)
- Classroom captioning (CART, CPrint, TypeWell)
- Captioning and/or scripts for television, videos, movies
- Buddy system for notes, extra explanations/directions
- Check for understanding of information
- Down time/break from listening/watching
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Step-by-step directions
  - Interpreting (ASL, signed English, cued speech, oral)
  - Speech to text software (speech recognition)
- Tutoring
- Notetaker
- Direct instruction (indicate classes):
Physical Environment Accommodations

- Noise/reverberation reduction (carpet & other sound absorption materials) reANSI.s12.60
- Special lighting
- Flashing fire alarms/smoke detectors
Curricular Modifications

- Modified reading assignments (shorten length, adapt phonics-based instruction)
- Modified written assignments (shorten length, adjust evaluation criteria)
- Extra practice
- Pre-teach, teach, post-teach vocabulary, concepts
- Strategies to adapt oral/aural curriculum/instruction to accommodate reduced auditory access
- Supplemental materials to reinforce concepts of curriculum
- Alternative curriculum
Evaluation Accommodations & Modifications

- Reduce quantity of tests
- Alternate tests
- Reading assistance with tests for clarification of directions, language of test questions (non-reading items)
- Extra time
- Special setting □ Other
Other Needs/Considerations

- Expanded core curriculum instruction (speech, language, pragmatic language/communication, audition and listening, speechreading, sign language, self-advocacy, transition planning, deaf studies)
- Counseling
- Family supports and training
- Sign language instruction for family members
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing peers
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing role models
- Recreational/Social opportunities
- Transition Services:  
  - Vocational Rehabilitation services  
  - Linkages to higher education, job training  
  - Self-advocacy & personal responsibility training  
  - Financial assistance
Transition

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services - either a general VR counselor or Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) if appropriate

Advocacy -

understanding your rights as a person with a hearing loss (504, ADA)
Understanding your hearing loss and accommodations you may need

Resources - disability offices at colleges, financial resources, accommodation resources (work or school), NCSS

Pepnet
PEPNET    http://www.pepnet.org/

Pepnet 2 (pn2) is a federally funded project whose mission is to increase the education, career, and lifetime choices available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Resources include:

- Live, one-on-one assistance in a variety of communication modes,
- In-person and online training,
- Materials that are downloadable, printable or available as hardcopies.
Resources - (many more on www.9east.net)

Hands and Voices - www.handsandvoices.org/

Birth - 3

National Center for hearing Assessment and Management
http://www.babyhearing.org/

School age:

http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/
Resources cont.

Transition:


National Institute on Deafness and other communication Disorders (NIDCD)
https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-ear-infections-deafness

http://vocrehab.vermont.gov/home