

# ADAMS COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

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

Distributed by: Adams County Health Department, Adams County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)  
Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability



*"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 a child identified by newborn hearing screening with a sensorineural hearing loss.*

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

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

- 1) **Every infant born in Washington will receive hearing screening prior to hospital discharge or by one month of age**
- 2) **Every infant referred from newborn hearing screening will receive a diagnostic audiologic evaluation by 3 months of age**
- 3) **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 2003, 82% of all newborns in WA were screened for hearing loss; 90% is projected for 2004. 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 CAN YOU DO IN YOUR OFFICE PRACTICE?

- 1) **If the infant did not pass the newborn hearing screening, refer the infant to a pediatric audiologist. This is the most important step for PCP's.** Many screening programs do not offer follow-up testing, but do inform the parents of the screening outcome and provide a list of audiologists as needed. **It is the PCP's responsibility to assure the family obtains follow-up testing.**
- 2) Check each infant's hospital record for results of a newborn hearing screening. If an infant was **born at a birthing center, at home or at a hospital that does not do screening, refer the child to a pediatric audiologist for newborn hearing screening before 1 month of age.**
- 3) Once a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, the audiologist will recommend amplification and early intervention. The PCP should monitor the process to **ensure that both amplification and early intervention are initiated by 6 months of age.**

### 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 older than 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.

## ADAMS COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- **For children under age three:** Contact: Adams County Health Department, Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program – Callie Moore – 659-3317 or Melva Zavala – 488-5256
- **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone	Fax	District:	Phone	Fax
Othello	488-4682	488-4893	Ritzville	659-0232	659-4119
Lind	677-3481	677-3463	Washtucna	646-3237	646-3249

### EHDDI INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- **Local:**
  - Hearing Loss and Speech Center – Yakima 509-453-8248
  - Walla Walla Clinic – Walla Walla 509-525-3720
  - Spokane Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic – Spokane 509-624-2326
  - Spokane Ear, Nose and Throat PS – Spokane 509-928-7272
  - Holy Family Hospital Speech and Hearing – Spokane 509-482-2193
  - Spokane Audiology Clinic – Spokane 509-835-5111
  - University Hearing and Speech Clinic- Spokane 509-358-7587
- **Regional:** EHDDI Program Coordinators:
  - Nancy Dalrymple 253-395-6729  
[nancy.dalrymple@doh.wa.gov](mailto:nancy.dalrymple@doh.wa.gov)
  - Esther Ehrmann 206-987-2457, 1-888-365-7767  
[esther.ehrmann@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:esther.ehrmann@seattlechildrens.org)
- **Internet:**
  - DOH Website on EHDDI [www.doh.wa.gov/ehddi](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehddi)
  - DOH Protocol for Newborn Hearing Screening [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/newborn\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/newborn_protocol.pdf)
  - DOH Protocol for Diagnostic Audiological Assessment: Follow-up for Newborn Hearing Screening [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/protocol.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/protocol.pdf)
  - DOH Best Practice Guidelines in Early Intervention for Children with Hearing Loss [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/Best\\_Practices.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/Genetics/Images/Best_Practices.pdf)
  - Children’s Hospital Newborn Hearing Screening Website [www.newborn-hearing-screening.org](http://www.newborn-hearing-screening.org)

**Attention: Child Care Providers....**

*There will be a three hour STARS approved training on June 7, 2006 at 5pm at the Othello Community Hospital Basement Conference room. Katie Humes and Nancy Hatfield, Communication Specialists with Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS) will share important information about identifying children with hearing loss, evaluating, and referring children for early intervention. Please contact Karen Potts, 659-3320 or Neyda Valdez at 488-2031 to reserve a spot at this training. This training is sponsored by Adams County Health Department and WSDS. There will be no cost to participants.*