



Success with Spoken Language: what can we predict or control?

Louise Rollins, MA
2025 EHDI Conference

My background

PAST EMPLOYMENT:

- × 2 different public school systems
- × State School for the Deaf
- × Stints in preschool & high school

CURRENTLY:

- × Early Intervention Teacher of the Deaf
- × Local Infants & Toddlers Program
- × Supporting American Sign Language, Cued American English, spoken language(s)

Also:

Founding Member, Maryland/DC Hands & Voices
CODA



This session...

IS NOT:

- × New research
- × A magic bullet
- × An unknown secret

IS:

- × A framework
- × A shift in perspective
- × Open to different interpretations



Session objectives

- × State 2 **factors affecting outcomes** with spoken language that are **known to families in the first 6-12 months of life**, and 2 that are **not known** at that time.
- × State 2 **factors affecting outcomes** with spoken language that **families cannot influence**, and 2 factors that **families can influence**.
- × Explain 2 **strategies that families can implement to mitigate** those factors that are not immediately evident and/or not within their ability to influence.



Success

What does it mean... to YOU?



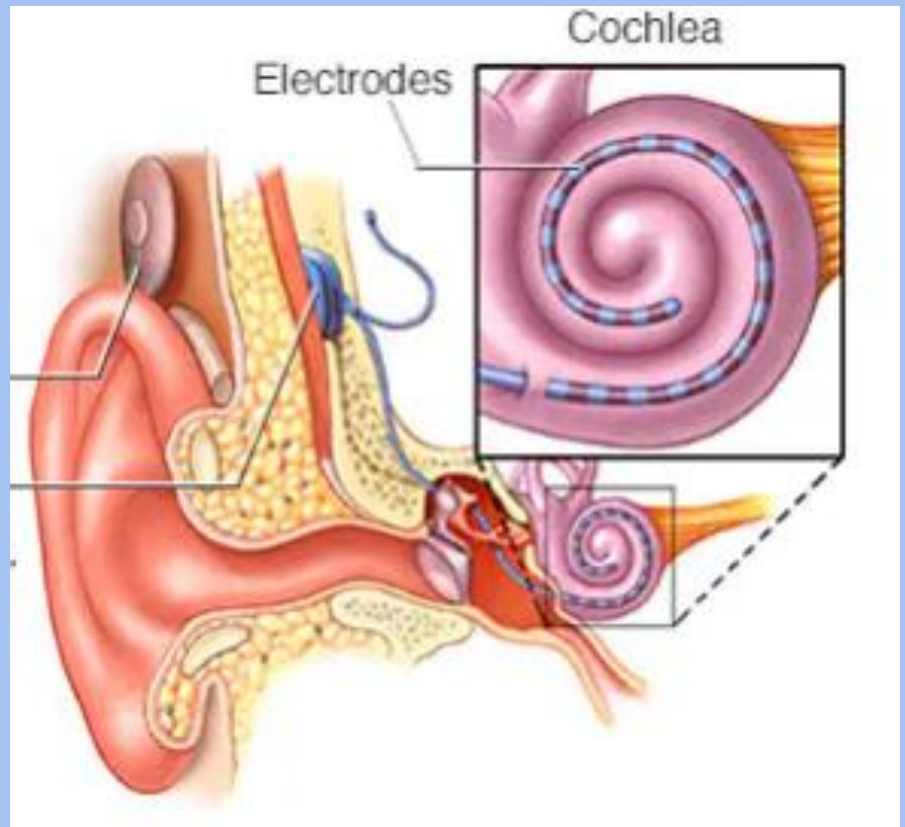


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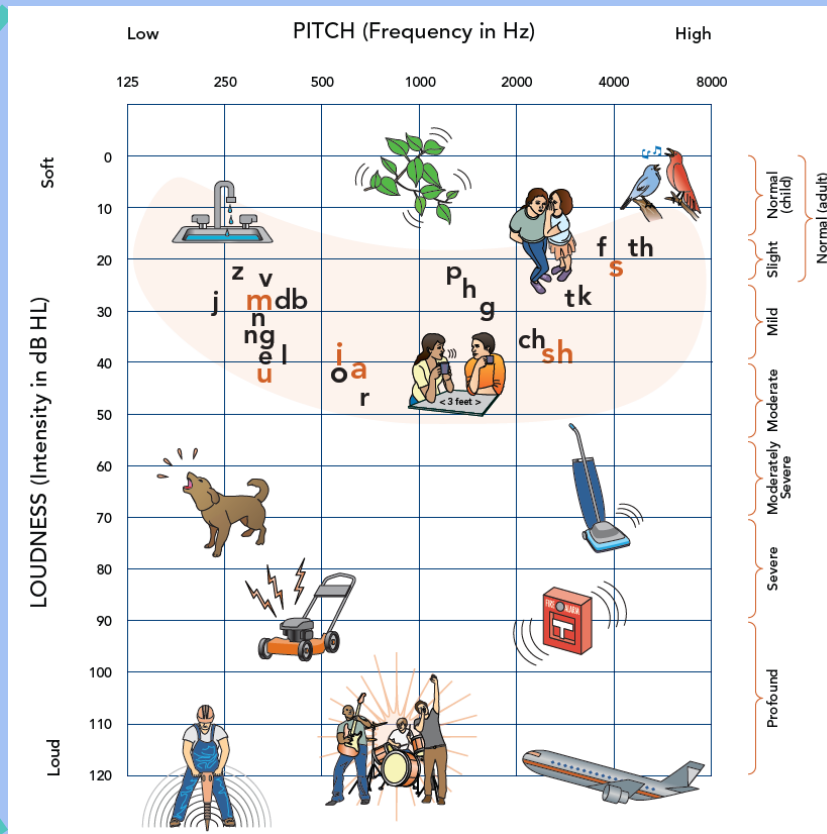


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Medical Professionals: surgical outcomes



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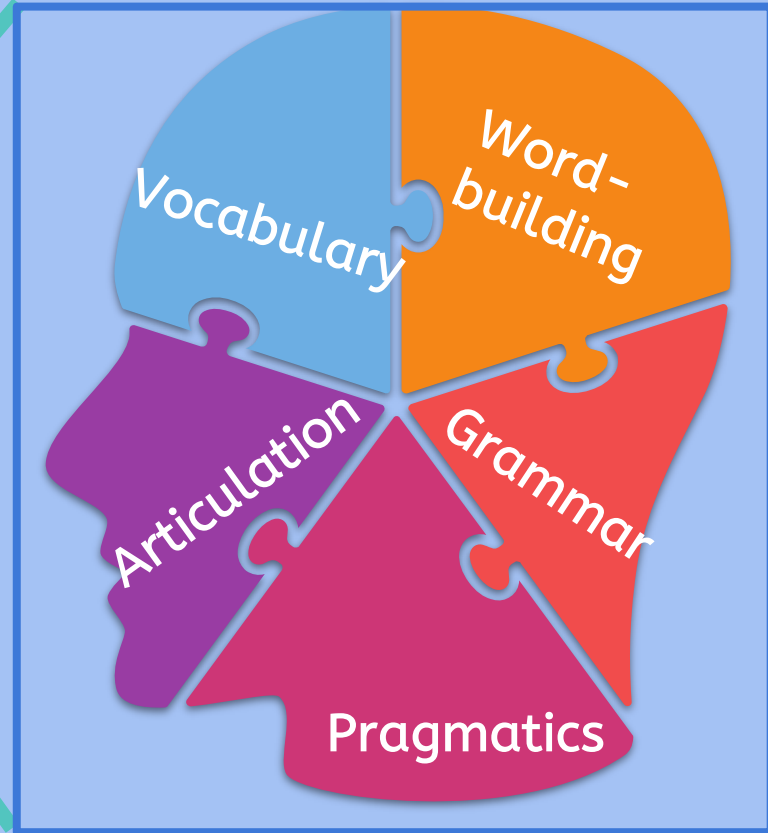


Source: Central Institute of the Deaf

Audiologists: auditory access



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Therapists: auditory & language skills



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Creative arts
Critical thinking
Information literacy
Literacy
Metacognition
Motor skills
Numeracy
Problem solving
Science
Social-emotional skills
Social sciences

Educators: learning



Identity
Inclusion
Independence
Recreation
Self-advocacy
Social connections
Work

Families: **COMMUNITY**
AND... D/HH Adults

Success



What does it mean to RESEARCHERS?



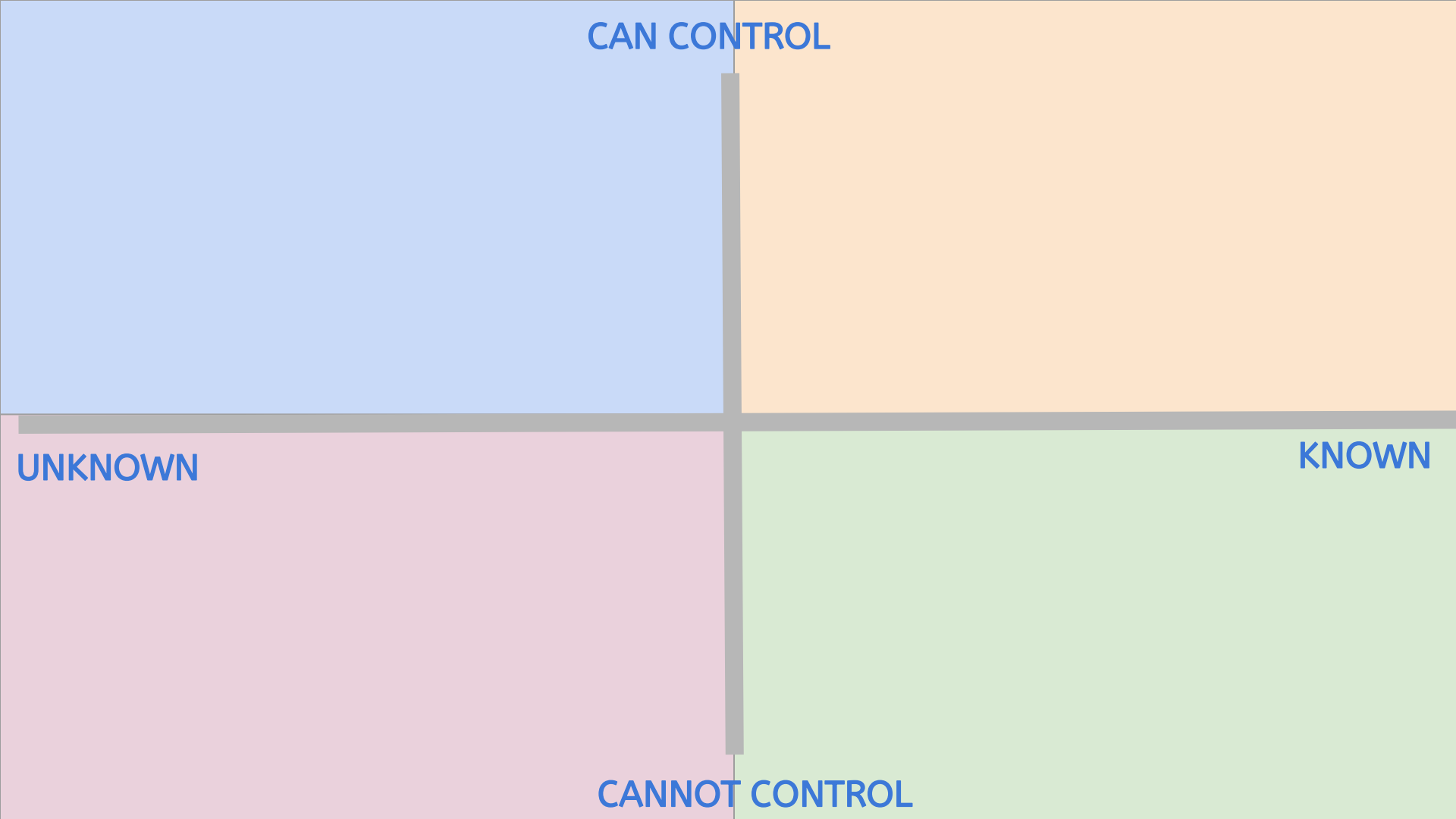
Factors for 'success'

What are they?

Where do they fall on the chart?

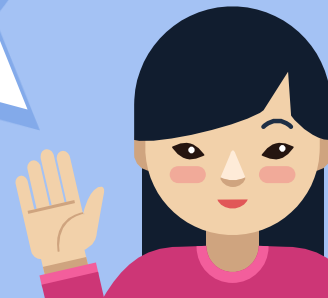
What do we do about it?!

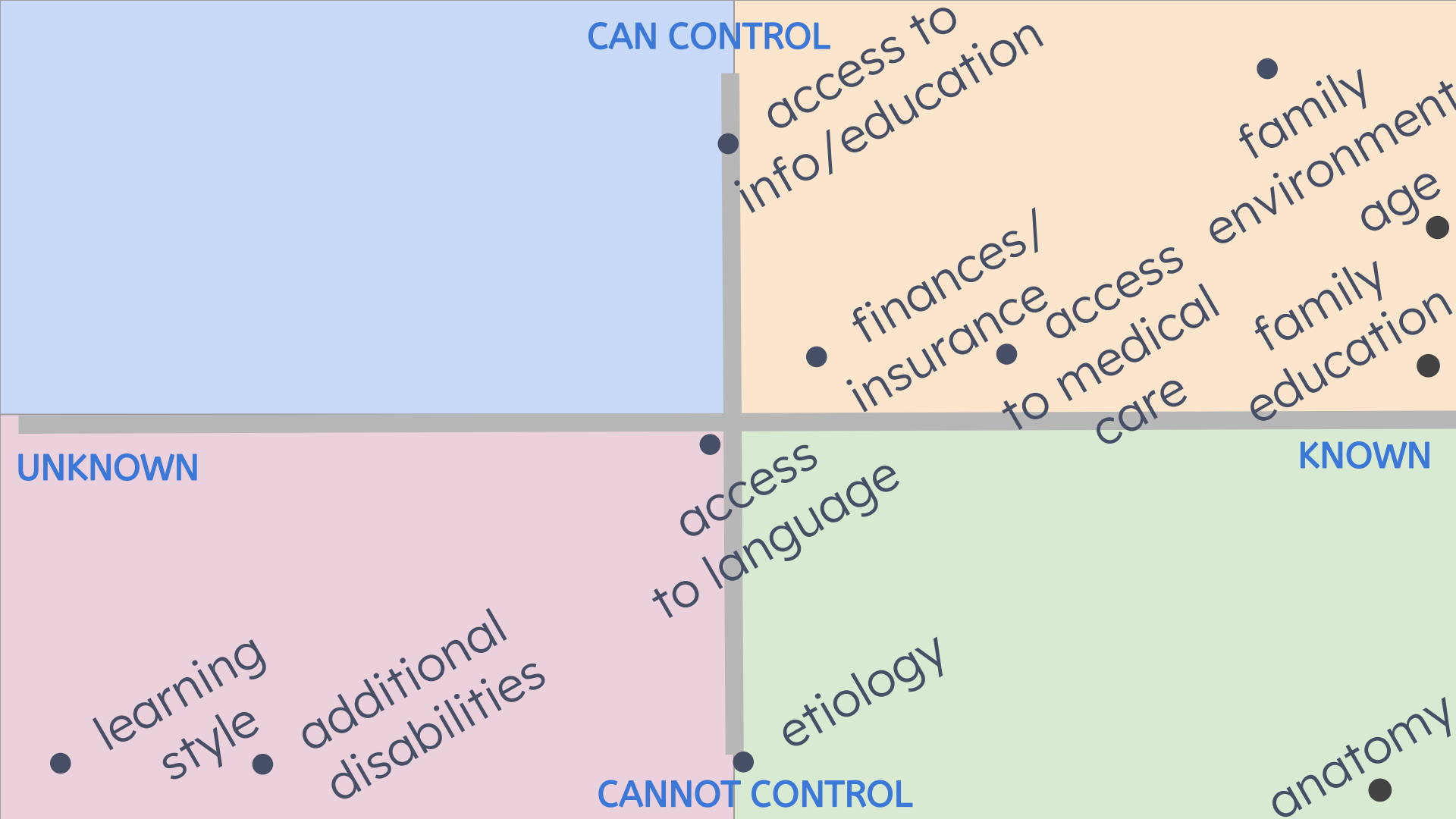




Factors influencing 'success' with spoken language

- × Access to language
- × Access to medical care
- × Access to info/education
- × Additional disabilities
- × Age at amplification (duration of deafness)
- × Anatomy
- × Etiology
- × Family education
- × Family environment
- × Finances/insurance coverage
- × Learning style





Strategies for families (1 of 3)

- × Focus on what you CAN control:
 - × Caregiver responsiveness
 - × Education
 - × child & family
 - × community!
 - × Ongoing medical & device management
 - × Access to language
 - × Signs
 - × Cues



WHAT THE NEW SCIENCE OF CHILD
DEVELOPMENT TELLS US ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

THE GARDENER AND THE CARPENTER

PICADOR

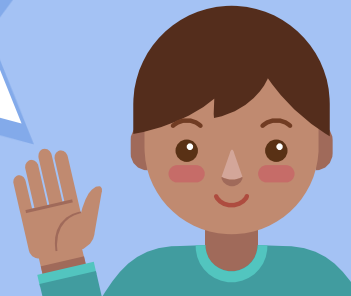


ALISON GOPNIK

"This lovely book, and the life's work that animates it,
will only deepen that bond [between caregiver and child], helping our
children to flourish." —Erika Christakis, *The Washington Post*

Strategies for families, 2 of 3

- × Be a gardener 🌱,
not a carpenter 🔨

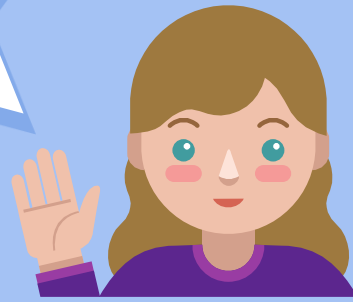


Strategies for families, 3 of 3

- × Create your own definition of
SUCCESS

*"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."*TM

handsandvoices.org



Thank you!

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- × Committee on Practice & Ambulatory Medicine, Section on Otolaryngology; Hearing Assessment in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Recommendations Beyond Neonatal Screening. Pediatrics September 2023; 152 (3). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-063288>
- × Factors Affecting Communication Outcomes in Pediatric Cochlear Implantation <https://blog.medel.pro/rehabilitation/communication-outcomes-in-pediatric-cochlear-implantation/>
- × Humphries, T., Mathur, G., Napoli, D.J. et al. An approach designed to fail deaf children and their parents and how to change it. Harm Reduction Journal 21, 132 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-024-01039-1>
- × Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) study. www.outcomes.nal.gov.au
- × Silva, J. M., Yamada, M. O., Guedes, E. G., & Moret, A. L. M. (2020). Factors influencing the quality of life of children with cochlear implants. Brazilian journal of otorhinolaryngology, 86(4), 411–418. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjorl.2019.01.004>

Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- × Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
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