

Unilateral Hearing Loss and Single-Sided Deafness: A Specialized Developmental Monitoring System

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- Through an examination of the Colorado model you will be able to :
 - Develop an appropriate monitoring program for your state to support EHDI goals for children with single-sided deafness
 - Identify key players in your state
 - Identify appropriate assessments for monitoring early language and communication with this population.

Learning Objectives

- Birth 65,986
- Screened 64,284 (98%)
- 160 Confirmed with permanent hearing loss at the average age of 2 months

Colorado 2016 Statistics

- Children (0-3) who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing in Colorado are referred to intervention services
- Colorado Home Intervention Program (CHIP) is a statewide, family-centered, in-home early intervention program through the Outreach Dept of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
- A system of statewide regional coordinators (8) offer technical assistance to families

Colorado System

- In Colorado, children with unilateral hearing loss must demonstrate a significant delay in speech, language, or communication in order to qualify for services
 - UNLESS the child has another established condition

Eligibility for services

- Children with unilateral hearing loss are not categorically eligible for Part C services
- With this in mind
 - How do we identify which children need support and services?
 - How do we establish a coordinated system of care for these children?
 - How do we avoid children falling through the cracks?

Challenges in Our State

- Colorado developed a statewide system for monitoring infants and toddlers with unilateral hearing loss in 2010 which includes:
 - A designated coordinator for this population
 - Information shared with families that is specific to unilateral hearing loss in young children
 - Assessments at established intervals
 - Parent to Parent Connection through Hands & Voices
 - Tracking and data collection

Collaborative Monitoring Program

- Unilateral Coordinator
 - Receives referral from audiologist or other referring source
 - Contacts family to share information and offer support
 - Home Visit, if needed or requested
 - Contacts family at set intervals
 - Sends and receives assessment packets
 - Reviews assessment information

Key Players

- Unilateral Coordinator connects families with other resources and supports within the community.
 - Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side
 - Partners with pediatric audiologists
 - Colorado Hearing Resource (CO-Hear) Coordinators
 - Child Find

Partnering

- Cover letter explaining program
- Consent form
- Tips for Parents about unilateral hearing loss
- Developmental Milestones for Speech and Audition
- Sample Hands & Voices newsletter
- Results of UHL Pilot study by CU-Boulder (200-2002)
- Child Find information
- CO-Hear Coordinator contact list
- Brochures: Hands & Voices, UHL info, CO-Hear

Initial Information Packet

- Children are assessed at specific intervals:
 - 6 months
 - 15 months
 - 21 months
 - 27 months
 - 33 months


Assessments

- Kent Inventory of Developmental Skills 6 months
- Minnesota Child Development Inventory 15, 21, 27, 33 months.
- MacArthur Communicative Development Inventory:
Words & Gestures - 15, 21 months
- MacArthur Communicative Development Inventory:
Words & Sentences – 21, 27, 33 months

Assessment Protocols

- Assessments scored at CU
- Summary of results shared with coordinator and families
- IF results show delay
 - Coordinator will talk with family
 - Family is assisted in scheduling Child Find evaluation
 - CO-Hear Coordinator attends Child Find eval with family
 - If determined eligible by Child Find team, IFSP is developed and direct services with CHIP begin
 - Information is shared with the family about appropriate resources available through CSDB and the community (i.e. CSRP, parent-tot groups)

Now What....?



In our experience, delays in communication, speech, and language most frequently show up between 21 and 27 months of age.

Current numbers for the Colorado Home Intervention Program in a “typical” month:

344 children (0-3) in program

Unilateral hearing loss: 101 children

Direct service 21

Consult 80

Direct Service vs. Consultation

- The Colorado Integrated Data System is populated by the electronic birth certificate.
 - Newborn Hearing Screening results are entered by the hospital coordinators
 - Audiologists enter diagnostic information
 - Unilateral Coordinator inputs intervention information
 - Children who progress from unilateral to bilateral are flagged in the database

Database and Tracking

- Collaborative funding for this monitoring project
 - Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
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References

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