



Earliest Interactions

Color and Collaboration: An Approach to Sharing Resources with Families

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Remembering the Beginning

- Too much information
- Too many resources
- Too little time



The more the better...right?

Uncertainty

Trying to ensure comprehensive information sharing

Young early interventionist

Not yet a parent



Fast Forward to Years Later

Still too much information

Still too many resources

Still too little time



How Do We Find the Balance?



Back to the Drawing Board: What Do Families Need/Want?

- ✓ Resources that stand out
- ✓ Resources that can be recognized as trustworthy
- ✓ Resources that can be read quickly, but have a lot of information
- ✓ Resources that are consistent and shared over multiple organizations involved in the process



Who is at the drawing board?

Add team picture

Parent

Deaf Adult

EI

MNHP

Amber

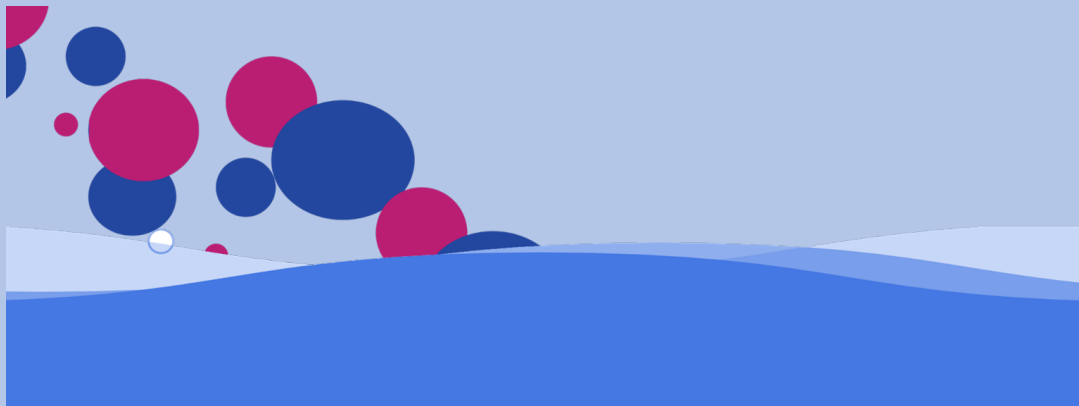


Where to begin?



Earliest Interactions

- Contracted with a Communication Specialist
- Researched and reviewed different branding options
- Decided on a brand
- Started small



We need more options

- Different resources and formats
- PPT
- Letterhead
- Resource pages
- Introduction pages-website, App

Earliest Interactions

Dear Family,

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby! Having a new baby can be such an exciting time, but it can also cause feelings of worry and nervousness about learning how to take care of them. When your baby refers (does not pass in one or both ears) on their newborn hearing screening, this may increase your worry. Please know that there are many supports in place to help you through this process to understand your baby's hearing, answer your questions, and provide you with next steps so your time can be spent getting to know your new baby.

Included in this bag, you will find:

- Maine Newborn Hearing Program (MNHP) brochure, "Hearing in Infants and Young Children"
- The MNHP brochure, "Hearing in Infants and Young Children", includes information about the newborn hearing screening and why following up with further testing is important.

Earliest Interactions magnet

- The magnet has the Earliest Interactions website address with more information about the newborn hearing screening process and resources available.

Earliest Interactions

Did you know that Maine's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (Maine Newborn Hearing Program) has its own App?! It's called **Maine's EHDI Process**. This App is free and you can find it in the **App Store** and **Google Play**.



What Will You Find On Maine's EHDI Process App?

- Step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the newborn hearing screening process
- Risk factors and hearing testing recommendations for a child who may develop late-onset hearing loss
- Information for how to refer a child to early intervention, and how to connect families with family-to-family support and deaf/hard of hearing adult-to-family support
- A list of pediatric audiologists in Maine
- Information regarding hearing assistive technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone-anchored hearing aids, etc.)
- Questions to ask your primary care provider at a wellness check or sick visit
- And much more!

We encourage you to check out this new App. If you have questions or comments about the App, contact us at info@earliestinteractions.org. If you have any questions about the newborn hearing screening process, visit the Maine Newborn Hearing Program website at <https://bit.ly/mnhp-program>.



NEW APP FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING AND THE PROFESSIONALS THAT SUPPORT THEM

Did you know Maine Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) has its own App?! It's Maine's EHDI Process App and you can find it in the App store and Google Play.



This App was developed to help families and their children's physicians/providers walk through the process of the newborn hearing screening into early intervention for children who are determined to be deaf or hard of hearing. Audiologists also have their own section for resources to support families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- ### WHAT WILL YOU FIND ON MAINE'S EHDI PROCESS APP?
- step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the newborn hearing screening process
 - risk factors and hearing testing recommendations for a child who may develop late-onset hearing loss
 - information for how to refer a child to early intervention and how to connect families with parent-to-parent support and deaf/hard of hearing adult-to-parent support
 - a list of pediatric audiologists in Maine
 - information regarding hearing assistive technology
 - suggestions for questions to ask if a child who is deaf or hard of hearing goes to the doctor for a wellness visit or a sick visit
 - and much more

We encourage you to check out this new App and see how it can help you navigate the newborn hearing screening process and beyond!

Don't forget to rate the App in the App Store or on Google Play to give us valuable feedback and contact us at mainehandy@gmail.com to share your comments any time!

A Parent's Guide to ABR Testing



Why does my child need this test?
Your child may have referred for any of the following reasons:

- Your baby did not pass their newborn hearing screening in one or both ears, or did not receive a newborn hearing screening at birth.
- Your baby may have had certain birth complications that can put them at greater risk for hearing loss.
- Your baby has other medical conditions that are linked with hearing loss.
- You may have a known family history of permanent hearing loss during childhood.
- Your child's audiologist could not obtain reliable results using other types of hearing testing.

How can I prepare for this test?

- Your baby must be asleep for ABR testing.
- Try your best to make sure they are tired and hungry before your appointment.
- Schedule your appointment during a regular nap time or feeding time to help them fall asleep.
- Communicate with your child's audiologist regarding what works best for your baby (rocking, pacifier, etc.).
- Bring what you will need to help them feel comfortable and fall asleep, i.e., a bottle, diapers, blankets, pacifier, etc.
- They will sleep in your arms, your car seat/stroller, or in a crib during testing.

When the audiologist is finished, they can tell you how your child's hearing or they may require you to come back for additional testing.

Some of these tests may not be completed in one appointment due to babies being habituated. Because a calm, sleeping baby is required for most of the testing, it is not uncommon for families to be asked to return for additional testing. This allows the audiologist to get a more complete picture of your child's hearing; this does not necessarily mean they have a hearing loss. While this can be a stressful process, it is important to complete all testing so appropriate referrals and recommendations can be made to support your child's language development. As a parent, you can help this process by bringing whatever your baby might need to stay asleep. Despite your best efforts, your child may not want to sleep, and that's okay!

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$235,000. Award number #16MCE002766. Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, "Earliest Interactions, Supporting 2,500+ Families, Empowering 2,500+ Children" are a trademark and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



They are Printed, Now What?

A Parent's Guide to ABR Testing



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 - Your baby did not pass their newborn hearing screening in one or both ears, or did not receive a newborn hearing screening a birth.
 - Your baby may have had certain birth complications that can put them at greater risk for hearing loss.
 - Your baby has other medical conditions that are linked with hearing loss.
 - You may have a known family history of permanent hearing loss during childhood.
 - Your child's audiologist could not obtain reliable results using other types of hearing testing.

How will it be done?

- There will be a 2-3 hour long appointment with a few types of non-invasive, painless tests, completed by an audiologist.
- An audiologist is a doctor who specializes in hearing and balance testing, and who may also fit hearing technology.
- The Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) evaluates on tests your child's auditory system while they sleep, or while they are under sedation.
 - This involves measuring their brain's responses to sound using electrode stickers on their head.
 - Small earphones will be placed in your child's ear to play/present sounds.
- The ABR test can confirm the presence, type, and degree of any hearing loss.
- Your audiologist may also check the health of your child's ears. These tests involve a small rubber tip held in your child's ear for a few seconds or minutes. Types of tests include:
 - The tympanogram is a test of eardrum health & function to detect fluid or congestion which can impact hearing.
 - The Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) test is a test of inner ear health. The results of the OAE test can provide some basic information about the presence/absence of hearing loss.

How can I prepare for this test?

- Your baby must be asleep for ABR testing.
 - Try your best to make sure they are tired and hungry before your appointment!
 - Schedule your appointment during a regular nap time or feeding time to help them fall asleep.
 - Communicate with your child's audiologist regarding what works best for your baby (rocking, pacifier, etc., etc.)
 - Bring what you will need to help them fall comfortably and fall asleep, i.e., a bottle, diaper, a onesie, pacifier, etc.
 - They will sit in your arms, your car seat/stroller, or in a crib during testing.

When the audiologist is finished, they can tell you how your child's ears or they may require you to come back for additional testing.

Some of these tests may not be completed in one appointment due to babies being fussy! Because a calm, sleeping baby is required for most of the testing, it is not uncommon for families to be asked to return for additional testing. This allows the audiologist to get a more complete picture of your child's hearing; this does not necessarily mean they have a hearing loss. While this can be a stressful process, it is important to complete all testing on appropriate intervals and recommendations can be made to support your child's language development. As a parent, you can help this process by being calm when your baby might need to stay asleep. Despite your best efforts, your child may not want to sleep, and that's okay!

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, as part of an award totaling \$255,000, awarded through HRSA2016-2016-00164. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor endorsement by, HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

A Parent's Guide to Behavioral Testing



Why does my child need this test?

- A hearing test is warranted any time you, a healthcare provider, or teacher are concerned about your child's hearing.
 - A hearing test is important to make sure your child can hear all the sounds they need for their continued speech and language development, even a mild hearing loss can affect language learning and social skills.

- Your child's pediatrician may refer you for a hearing test after an initial hearing screening.
 - Sometimes we need to monitor your child's hearing due to conditions when they were born or other medical conditions that can put them at risk for hearing loss.

How will it be done?

- Your audiologist will do their best to turn the hearing test into a fun and engaging game.
 - Sounds will be played through speakers, or through over the ear or in the ear headphones.
- Multiple methods can be used to test your child's hearing. These can include:
 - Looking for your child's response to sounds with consistent changes in their behavior, such as looking for the sound.
 - Playing various listening games, such as dropping a block into a bucket whenever they hear a beep.

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Earliest Interactions Has a New Website!

Maine's EHDI team is excited to roll out our new and improved website, made possible by support from a federal HRSA grant!

Who might be interested in checking out this website?

- Families who may be having a baby soon and want to know more about the newborn hearing screening process.
- Families who have been told their child is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Audiologists, early intervention specialists, and primary care providers.

Why would you want to share this website with others?

Sharing this resource is a fantastic way to help families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who support them find all of the resources they may need to support those children with one simple click.

What will you find on this website?

- Tip sheets and information for families to help guide them through the newborn hearing screening process.
- Tip sheets and information for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Videos with topics ranging from family to family support to Deaf and hard of hearing role models, to audiological testing and hearing assistive technology.
- Risk factor guidelines.
- Information about financial resources.
- Details about events happening in Maine for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Local and national connections, links to other resources such as those from the Maine Newborn Hearing Program, MECDH and so much more.

Visit earliestinteractions.com to check it out yourself and let us know what you think! We would love your feedback!

Earliest Interactions

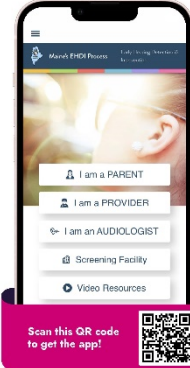
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- A list of pediatric audiologists in Maine.
- Information regarding hearing assistive technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone-anchored hearing aids, etc.)
- Questions to ask your primary care provider at a wellness check or sick visit.
- And much more!

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Scan this QR code to get the app!



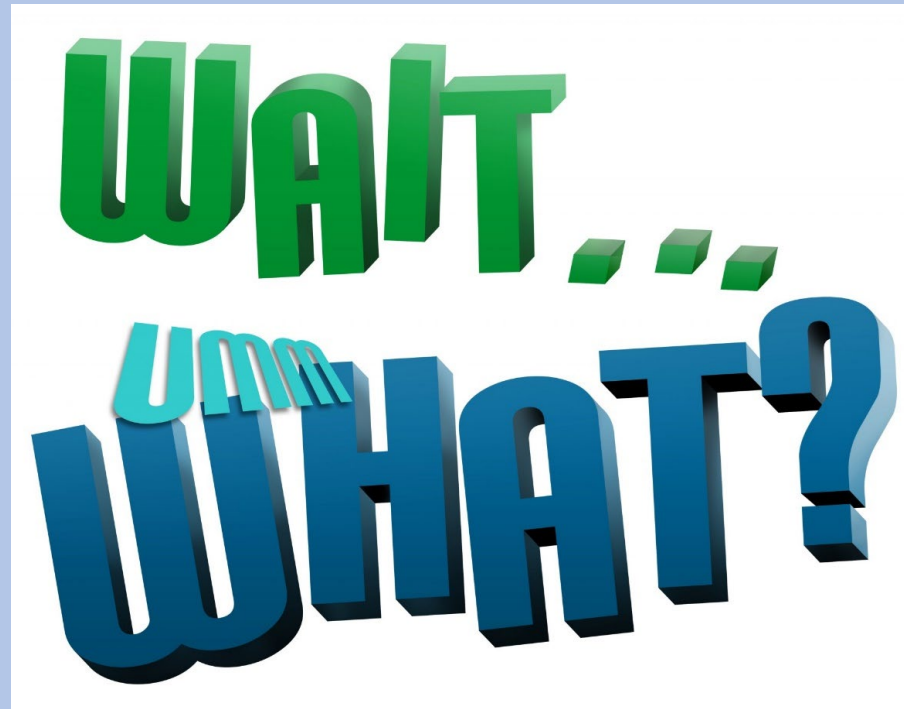
Branding Continues

- Hearing in Infants and Young Children brochure
- Kindergarten Readiness Packet
- Exploring Language and Communication Opportunities
- Three resource guides describing different hearing levels
- Prenatal brochure
- Five more audiology tip sheets
- Early intervention tip sheets



What is Our Recent Research Showing?

- Still too much paper
- Still too much information
- Still not enough time



Let's get some feedback!

Advisory Council:

Deaf and hard of hearing adults

Parents

Ready and willing!

Paid stipend through HRSA grant

At the end of the work.....what would families and Deaf adults think?



Plans for the Future

- Continue with branding
- Continue collaboration between all in the newborn hearing screening into early intervention process
- Meet with these organizations to discuss plans for when resources are given and by who
- Survey families 1 year after roll out to evaluate process



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Thank you!

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