

How to Partner With Your Local LEND Program: Supporting the Creation and Distribution of EHDI Resources.



Keck School of
 Medicine of USC

Crystal Ortiz, BS,*¹ Kate “Bug” Allen, BS,*¹⁻³ Alexis Deavenport-Saman, DrPH,^{1,4,5} Amanda Tyree, MA, CCC-SLP,^{1,4} Kristina Rousso, AuD^{1,2,6}

¹Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, ²USC Caruso Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, ³Caruso Family Center for Childhood Communication, ⁴Keck School of Medicine of USC, ⁵USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, ⁶Hear With You Foundation

BACKGROUND

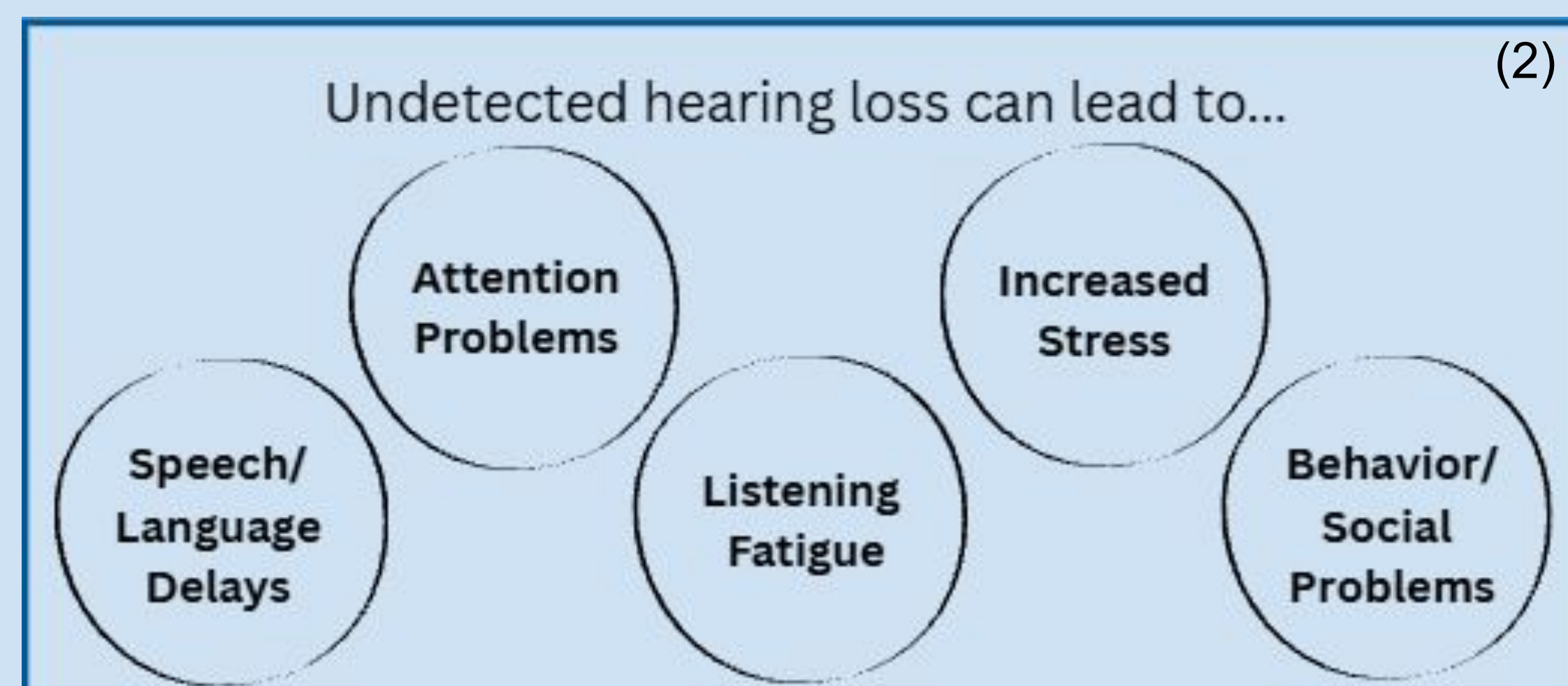


1 - 3 out of 1,000 infants in the US are born with a permanent hearing loss (1)

90%

Are born to hearing parents (4)

Early identification and intervention are critical; however, disparities exist that prevent many families from receiving timely support. Delays in identification are directly related to families that are not well informed or have poor access to health care (2).



Primary care physicians and health care professionals play an essential role in the early detection of hearing loss in children and guiding families through the process from early detection to timely intervention. However, there are gaps in pediatricians knowledge and awareness towards hearing loss assessment and management in newborns (3).

OBJECTIVES

Overall Goals of the CA-LEND Resource Guide Project

- To create an educational guide to support families of DHH children and the multidisciplinary providers who work with and support them.
- To close a knowledge and standards gap for Pediatric Audiology Services.
- To build and maintain partnerships between the local Los Angeles Pediatric Audiology Clinics and the CA- LEND at CHLA Audiology Team.
- Alignment of Audiology Externships with CA-LEND at CHLA Scholar Positions.
- To incorporate the educational information from the guidebook into the CA-LEND at CHLA Audiology Module for multidisciplinary scholar and faculty knowledge awareness.
- Maintain the resource with current evidence, resources, and contact information.
- Dissemination of the resource to partners of care within Los Angeles County and the greater Southern California Region.

METHODS



1. Comprehensive Resource Review

- Ensure links and resources were up to date
- Update contact information
- Ensure accurate and current information

2. Gather feedback from professionals

- Sent resource to three local agencies who have partnered with CA-LEND at CHLA Audiology Group.
- Agencies encouraged to participate in a survey and provide feedback. Feedback focused on improvement, accessibility, and usage opportunities.

3. Implement recommended changes

- Updating professional definitions and descriptions.
- Including more culturally/ethnically diverse representation.
- Reorganization of information for easier access.
- Updates to a condensed/quick guide version of the guidebook.

4. Finalize and Disseminate Guide

- Dissemination Instructional Sessions Planned for March 31, 2026 and April 14, 2026.
- Invitations will be sent to multidisciplinary partners in care and families who support DHH/Deaf children in the Southern California Region.
- Continued incorporation of resource into the CA-LEND at CHLA Audiology Module for multidisciplinary scholar and faculty awareness and feedback opportunities.

RESULTS

The resource was reviewed by three Pediatric Audiology Agencies. A survey involving 10 individuals assessed the educational content and potential uses:

- 60% rated a 5/5 for ease of access to the information.
- 100% of participants reported increased knowledge of pediatric hearing loss after reading.
- Participants acknowledged the benefit of both the comprehensive and the condensed/quick guide for busy practices.

Dissemination of the material and provider follow-up is underway, with a target completion date of the end of April 2026. Continued distribution planned for Fall 2026 with CA-LEND at CHLA Audiology Module.



CONCLUSIONS

The Los Angeles County Pediatric Hearing Health Online Resource and its condensed version serve as valuable educational tools for both professionals and families.

Benefits of Supporting LEND Designed Resources:

- Long term partnerships between CA-LEND at CHLA Audiology and Los Angeles Pediatric Audiology Externship programs allows for routine editing and dissemination amongst a breadth of local professionals and families.
- Regular maintenance ensures the most current evidence-based information to support knowledge growth in the field of hearing health.
- Supports more timely identification, diagnosis, and treatment through multidisciplinary collaboration.
- Through presentations at EHDI, the guidebook can be updated to support other regions, both in California and Nationally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project was supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Grant 5 T73MC11044 and by the Administration on Disabilities (AOD) under the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Grant 90DDUC0106-01-00 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusion are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government infer any endorsements.

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