



Addressing Hearing Loss in Young Children with Complex Needs

Deborah Chen, Ph.D.

April 14, 2015

PaTTAN

PA Dept of Education





Objectives

- To identify the significance of early intervention to address hearing loss in young children with complex needs
- To describe selected strategies for promoting communication development



Complex Needs

Combination of special needs that require intensive supports:

- Hearing loss and/or visual impairment, and
- Medical and health conditions, and/or
- Physical impairments, and/or
- Developmental delays



Interdisciplinary Teaming

- Family

Depends on child's complex needs:

- Medical/health
- Vision and hearing specialists
- Occupational and physical therapists
- Speech and language pathologists
- Behavior specialists
- Psychologists
- Nutritionist





Selected Resources

Hands & Voices Guide by your Side of PA

<http://www.paearlyhearing.org/families/diagnosed/item/70>

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania

<http://www.parenttoparent.org/>

Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project

<http://www.pattan.net/category/Educational%20Initiatives/Deaf-Blind>

Building a Foundation: Learning about the Child

- Medical reports
- Assessments
- Caregiver interview
(Guiding questions)
- Family CPR
- Professional input
- Problem solving
(Vignette)



Influence of Hearing Loss in Early Years



- Social emotional development
- Communication development
- Language and early literacy development

Access to Sound



- Medical interventions
- Amplification
- Increase signal-noise ratio
- Making sound meaningful

Access to Communication

- Social interaction
- Mutually understood form
- Content or topic
- Purpose



Use of Selected Prompts

- Auditory cues
- Olfactory cues
- Visual cues
- Tactile cues

(handouts)



- Hand-over-hand guidance
- Hand-under-hand guidance

Selected Strategies to Promote Communication

- Observe and interpret child's signals
- Identify child's preferences
- Establish predictable routines
- Establish turn-taking
- Support communicative initiations





Challenges to High Quality Services

Service Providers

- Lack of training and experience
- Traditional roles
- Discipline-specific focus
- Barriers to teaming
- Lack of time and flexibility

Child

- Unique and complex
- Requires individualized & integrated approach
- Takes time to demonstrate knowledge and skills



Effective Practices for Service Providers

- Identify and use resources
- Update professional knowledge and skills
- Implement evidence-based practices
- Be respectful and collaborative
- Share expertise
- Listen and be open to learning
- Maintain open communication
- Adopt an attitude of inquiry
- Keep meaningful child and family outcomes in mind