



EHDI E-MAIL EXPRESS

The monthly newsletter of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program



This is an e-mail communication from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home" project funded through cooperative agreements with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). It is designed to provide AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Chapter Champions with resources and current clinical and other information. The EHDI E-Mail Express is sent on a monthly basis. Please feel free to share the EHDI E-Mail Express with colleagues working on or interested in childhood hearing detection and intervention issues. Distribution information appears on the last page.

DECEMBER 2011

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FROM YOUR CHAIR



There is a traditional story that seems to be re-told in my community near the end of each calendar year. It is a story steeped in tradition and recounted in reverence as the days get shorter and the changing weather draws us around the fire. The story is told of an ancient night sky, and of a most unusual winter's night some two thousand years ago when one star appeared to shine with a brightness that was unequaled.

I cannot speak to the verity of the story. But when I hear the story retold, I am always captured by the idea of **amazement**. And I am **amazed**!

I am **amazed** that, in two short decades, a small collection of spirited individuals have changed the world for the newborn who is deaf or hard of hearing. Changed that newborn baby's access to language, and access to cognition, and access to socialization, and access to education, and access to the innate potential that any child brings into this world.

And I am **amazed** that those small but timely efforts by a few interested and energized professionals have changed the lives of the family members when a child is born deaf or hard of hearing. Changed the devastating sadness of late diagnosis into the temporary tears of timely diagnosis, and eventually into the happy tears of language successes and of social connectedness for the child who is unlocking a path into future success.

I am **amazed** at those professionals who had already recognized the problem many years before your own or my own epiphany, and had directed a campaign of persistence toward finding a good answer where only a bad answer had previously been seen. I am **amazed** at how those few managed to focus the spotlight, so that others might experience "discovery" and agree to carry the torch.

I am **amazed** that each year thousands of newborns in this country begin to experience the benefits of those timely efforts. **Amazed** that those benefits begin to accrue before the child's parents (or even the child's physician) have come to recognize the life-changing implications of the interventions.

And I am **amazed** that each year tens of thousands of children in other countries of the world now are beginning to newly realize the same opportunities, and are beginning a timely entry into discovering the language of their family and of the community into which they have been born.

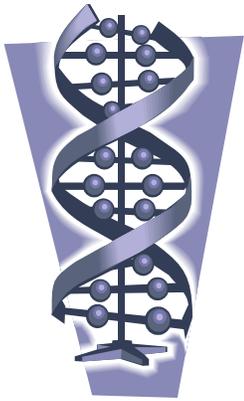
There is an **amazingly** bright star in the night sky, and I can only look up and celebrate the year. Thanks to each of you for being that star. You sparkle!

- Albert Mehl, MD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Details
2012 EHDI Conference	March 5—6, 2012	St Louis, MO	Web site
International Conference on Newborn Hearing Screening	June 5—7, 2012	Cernobbio, Italy	Web site
International Conference on Adult Hearing Screening	June 7—9, 2012	Cernobbio, Italy	Web site

GENE THERAPY FOR EARS



On December 19, *Science Daily* featured an article on gene therapy for ears. For the first time ever, chitosan nanoparticles have been used as a carrier for gene therapy in the ear. Chitosan is produced from shrimp shells. "Gene therapy may someday be an alternative to using surgery to implant CI, cochlear implants, in the deaf and hard of hearing," says Sabina Strand, at NTNU's Department of Biotechnology. Gene therapy has the potential to slow the loss of hair cells and promote the growth of hair cells that have already been damaged. Normal hearing depends on the presence of healthy hair cells in the inner ear. In this study, researchers attempted to use chitosan as a carrier to deliver drugs and genes to the inner ear in guinea pigs. Chitosan was able to deliver drugs through the membrane that covers the tiny gap between the middle ear and inner ear. Chitosan was also able to deliver genes to the hair cells. Whether or not the results from guinea pigs can be transferred to human ears remains uncertain. [Read more.](#)

THE AAP PROGRAM TO ENHANCE THE HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS & CHILDREN (PEHDIC) IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Program to Enhance the Health & Development of Infants & Children (PEHDIC), a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, is pleased to announce the launch of a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/PEHDIC>. Please show your support and select the "Like" option on this page to have the latest news, information, and resources related to PEHDIC and its partners delivered straight to your Facebook account's news feed. Information will be shared on such topics as: early hearing detection and intervention, newborn screening, neuromotor screening, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and congenital heart defects - just to name a few! Please help us spread the word about PEHDIC by sharing the Facebook page with your friends and colleagues!



CHECK OUT EHDl RESOURCES AT WWW.MEDICALHOMEINFO.ORG



Do you know the various EHDl resources available on the AAP National Center for Medical Home Implementation Web site — www.medicalhomeinfo.org? The [EHDl web page](#) features publications, factsheets, information on state programs, a roster of the current AAP EHDl Chapter Champions, links to partners, archives of EHDl E-mail Express, and much more. Bookmark it or add it to your favorites today!

ASHA CONSUMER RESOURCES – HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

While many health insurance plans and managed care organizations recognize the importance of hearing and speech-language services, many health plans may not offer comprehensive benefits. This [checklist](#) can assist parents and your patients in approaching employers to obtain or improve coverage. An [employer insurance packet](#) is also available.



2012 ANNUAL EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION (EHDl) MEETING



The 2012 annual EHDl meeting is fast approaching on March 5—6, 2012 in St Louis, MO. All AAP EHDl Chapter Champions and Task Force members should have received an e-mail requesting information for registration and travel arrangements through this survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012EHDlMeeting>. Please complete this survey form by Friday, January 13. AAP staff will be handling all registration and hotel accommodations based on the information provided. Please also book your airfare through the AAP travel office by contacting them at 888/227-1772 or by logging into the Members Center at www.aap.org/moc and clicking on 'resx'.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND (AADB)

The American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB) is a national consumer organization of, by, and for deaf-blind Americans and their supporters. "Deaf-blind" includes all types and degrees of dual vision and hearing loss. Our membership consists of deaf-blind people from diverse backgrounds, as well as family members, professionals, interpreters, and other interested supporters. The AADB mission is to ensure that all deaf-blind persons achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community.

AADB ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Information Clearinghouse: Provides information, referral and technical assistance on topics related to deaf-blindness.
- Support Service Provider (SSP) Summit: Purpose is to examine how SSP services can be increased and improved across the country.
- Deaf-Blind Technology Summit: Purpose is to see how technology can be more accessible and affordable for deaf-blind people.
- Deaf-Blind Count: A project to determine ways to obtain more exact statistics of people with dual vision and hearing loss around the country.
- National Task Force on Deaf-Blind Interpreting: A collaboration between AADB, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers. This collaboration will enhance the quality of interpreting services for deaf-blind people, and increase the number of interpreters qualified to work with them.
- AADB-L: AADB sponsors a listserv available for its members where people can discuss important issues in the deaf-blind community and offer feedback on AADB's programs and services.
- National Conferences: Hundreds of people come together for support and networking, and to learn about such issues as leadership and employment.
- The Deaf-Blind American (DBA) Magazine: Available to AADB members and is published twice a year in large print, Braille, email and disk. It covers the latest in technology and research, AADB happenings, and conference news.
- Advocacy Projects: AADB provides advocacy trainings, workshops, and involvement with legislators, manufacturers, and other entities on behalf of deaf-blind people.

More information can be found at <http://www.aadb.org/index.html>.

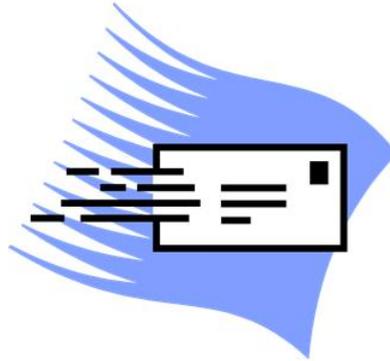


WORDS OF INSPIRATION...



Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

~ Garrison Keillor



Distribution Information:

The AAP EHDI Program implementation staff send this e-mail update to the Academy's EHDI Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, staff and state EHDI coordinators. For additional information on hearing screening and to access previous editions of the EHDI E-mail Express, click on the following link http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/how/clinical_care/hearing_screening/. Previous e-mail updates are available upon request from Faiza Khan, fkhan@aap.org or (847) 434-4924. If you would like to unsubscribe to the update, please notify staff by responding to this e-mail.