

Next Parent meeting: September 27 - 7:30 p.m.
at B.C. Family Hearing Resource Centre (formerly the Elks)
No. 8 - 15355 - 102A Ave., Surrey, BC
**Making the school system work for you:
the Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.)**

Several educators and administrators will join us...

- What is an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.)?
- What should a good I.E.P. look like?
- Who is the I.E.P. for?
- What is the parent's role in developing the I.E.P.?



Come and join us for a group discussion about Individual Education Plans. Share your experiences, and ask questions of other parents and invited professionals. Refreshments provided. For more information call: Teresa Kazemir (604) 552-2254 Cathy Chow (604) 251-6989

A.G.M. Announcement:

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - BC Parents' Branch 4th Annual General Meeting will be held Friday, October 26, 2001 - 4:30 pm at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel, Surrey, BC.

Call for nominations:

If you would like to let your name stand for a position on the Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact President Teresa Kazemir at 604-552-2254 or Email: tkaz@lightspeed.ca
Candidates must be a member of CHHA-BC Parents' Branch.

Get involved! See page 5...

DON'T MISS IT!

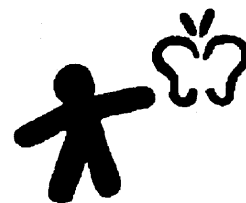
**CHHA B.C. Conference 2001
Sheraton Guildford, Oct. 26 & 27**

*Parent Workshops - BEST program for Teens
Kidz Konnection - Kiddie Kare*

Workshop topics this year include: how to deal with professionals, improving speech production, development of written language, making an environment truly accessible, etc.

See *INSIDE* and *INSERT* for Details...

September 2001



Canadian
Hard of
Hearing
Association
B.C.
Parents'
Branch

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www.CHHAparents.bc.ca

Membership: \$20 annual includes subscription to *Listen/Écouté* magazine and *The Loop* newsletter

Come to Our Annual Conference C October 26 & 27, 2001

This year's conference promises to be informative and exciting!

- Learn to be a better advocate for you child, and how to develop good relationships with professionals.
- Learn about development of written language, and how to help your son or daughter become a better writer.
- Learn more about assistive listening devices and see specialized telephones, smoke alarms, pagers and other technological devices in action.
- Hear about exciting new research at UBC using special equipment to improve speech production in kids with hearing loss.
- Ask questions of a panel of students, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, and parents about what makes an environment truly accessible (socially, academically...).
- Finally, join us for our Annual General Meeting and have a chance to discuss challenges, concerns, and successes and help develop a plan for the coming year.

Best of all, it's a chance to see old friends, make new ones, and socialize. So book time off work, send in your registration, and we look forward to seeing you there!!!

Info: call Teresa (604)552-2254 or Janet (604)794-3772.

Accommodation

For those of you looking for a place to stay, we are pleased to offer some options. A limited number of rooms are available at Victory Hill residence in Burnaby (part of the Provincial School for the Deaf). There is no cost for these rooms, but a small donation is appreciated. For more information please phone Cathy Chow (604) 251-6989. If anyone is interested in billeting, please contact Teresa Kazemir (604) 552-2254.

Writing Samples Wanted

Conference presenter, Dr. Marietta Patterson, is looking for samples of hard-of-hearing children's writing to use in her talk. These can be faxed to her attention at (604) 437-0260. Please call Donna Chisholm (604)731-8531 for further information, or email her at chisholm_donna@hotmail.com

Kiddie Kare

Childcare will once again be provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers (age 0 to 5)! Three adults (including a former preschool teacher) will take care of the children in a room close by the main conference. Various activities will be planned, with lots of toys, games, and crafts on hand. Please bring snacks and drinks for your child. You will be responsible for your children at mealtimes.

Assistive listening devices will be available for children who are hard of hearing. We will also have a circle time each



day focusing on hearing aids (a doll with hearing aids, a story about a boy with hearing aids, etc.).

To register your child for Kiddie Kare, phone Teresa at (604) 552-2254. Space is limited, so please phone early!! We especially hope to accommodate families traveling from out of town.

Kidz Konnection

For children aged 6 to 11, we're planning a fun time of games, art, drama, movies, and socializing! Friday's theme is "Robot Madness." Let your imagination soar as we create robot costumes. We'll showcase our talents to adults and youth attending the conference on Friday evening. Saturday will be "Mad Scientist Day", featuring fun experiments with surprising results! Being mentored by hard-of-hearing adults and youth and meeting other children is a key objective of this program. Please register early so our planning can go smoothly...



The BEST in YOU

The Best in You helps you to explore your own potential. Learn to understand yourself, accept yourself and like yourself. Cooperate and share experiences with others. Understand what helps you to learn. **If you are 12 to 18 years of age, experience hearing loss, and want to discover more about yourself and leadership development, this workshop is for you!**

Hearing loss is an invisible handicap. It is one of the most difficult disabilities because we depend on our ears to listen and communicate with others. People can't see how much of a hearing loss a person has nor can they easily determine what that person needs to be able to hear and understand clearly. Much of our time is spent talking and listening to people, and when there is a hearing loss, communication with others can become extremely difficult. Understanding and accepting, as well as learning and applying listening and coping strategies, can help you reduce the frustration you may experience.

BEST focuses on communication and you will explore the effects of hearing loss on communication with others through fun and exciting activities.

"BEST in YOU" PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Friday, Oct 26 - 1:15 pm – 5:45 pm
(Dinner at 6:00 pm)

Saturday, Oct 27 - 9:00 am – noon
(Lunch) 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

COST: \$20 for materials (payable at the workshop--this is separate from the conference fees)

For more information about this program contact:

Pamela Spencer, Audiologist/Rehabilitation Counsellor
Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Phone: (604) 736-7391 (voice) (604) 736-2527 (TTY)
Fax: (604) 736-4381 Email: pspencer@widhh.com



CHHA - B.C. Conference - Parents' Sessions

(Tentative schedule...)

Friday October 26th	
12:00 - 1:15 pm	Registration
1:15 - 2:00 pm	Plenary session - Introductions, Brief Description of Displays
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 - 4:15 pm	<p><u>Negotiating Effectively</u> Susan Lane, Director of the B.C. Family Hearing Resource Centre Teresa Kazemir, President of Parent Branch of CHHA-B.C. Cathy Chow, Family Support Parent at B.C. Family Hearing Resource Centre</p> <p>Hard of hearing youth and adults are encouraged to advocate for themselves, and parents are urged to become advocates for their hard of hearing children... but this is sometimes easier said than done! This workshop will provide practical tips for negotiating. Large group discussion and small group problem solving, case studies, and practice sessions will focus on topics such as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barriers and guidelines to giving constructive criticism ▪ Communicating your own knowledge about yourself or your child ▪ Hearing "their" side ▪ Handling recurring problems ▪ Keeping focused on your goals and successfully bridging the communication gap even when you are feeling frustrated and angry.
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 - 5:30 pm	<p><u>Parents' Branch A.G.M. and Planning Session</u> Come and share your concerns, challenges and successes. What ideas do you have? How can we better support families throughout the province? Help us to set goals for the coming year; we need to hear from everybody!</p>
6:00 - 7:00 pm	<u>Dinner and Performance by Kidz Konnection</u>
7:00 - 8:30 pm	<p><u>Chuckles, Challenges and Choices</u> Dawn Fuller, Laughter therapist, Clinical Counselor, Stand-Up Comic</p> <p>Hearing loss, doctors, audiologists, isolation, depression, meetings, teachers, spouses...AAARRRRGGGHHH! Do you ever feel overwhelmed and unsupported? Challenging times demand positive antidotes. Humor and laughter are gifts we can give to ourselves and to others to create healthier and happier emotional lives and relationships. Come to this unique, warm and wonderful presentation!</p>

Saturday October 27th	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 11:00 am	<p><u>Nurturing Writers</u> Dr. Marietta Paterson, Principal of the Vancouver Oral Centre</p> <p>This workshop is designed to help parents and educators identify and address some of the common language problems and knowledge gaps revealed in the writing of hard-of-hearing children and youth.</p>
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p><u>Technology Workshop</u> Charles Laszlo, Assistive Listening Device Systems - ALDS Inc. and University of British Columbia Brad Bice, Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing</p> <p>Various assistive listening devices and other specialized equipment (telephones, alarm clocks, pagers, smoke alarms, etc.) will be demonstrated, and Brad & Charles will be available to answer your questions about equipment.</p>
12 - 1:00 pm	<u>Lunch</u>
1:15 - 2:15 pm	<p><u>The New Speech Therapy for People with a Hearing Loss</u> Penelope Bacsfalvi, Speech-Language Pathologist formerly with the Provincial Oral Program at Burnaby South, and Dr. Barbara Bernhardt, UBC School of Audiology and Speech Sciences</p> <p>Exciting results of a therapy-based research project focusing on improving speech production in teenagers with severe to profound hearing losses. Therapy was done using palatometry and ultrasound.</p>
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 3:30 pm	<p><u>Panel Discussion: Equal Opportunities for Access</u> A panel of students, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, and parents will discuss what makes an environment truly accessible and inclusive (both academically and socially). <u>CHHA BC Annual General Meeting</u> The BC Chapter will have it's annual general meeting. Parents are welcome to attend to learn more about what goes on within CHHA.</p>

Note: Times are subject to change.

Kidz Konnection Summer Events...

Mother & Daughter Tea

We had 6 families at our Mother & Daughter Tea this summer. The Moms had tea, scones and other goodies and shared experiences. Most of us did not know each other that well but now we do and we look forward to seeing each other at the conference.

The kids played croquet, painted with glitter glue, and swam in our kiddie pool. They then retired to computer games and videos. Most girls were meeting for the first time and I think they will be looking forward to meeting again at the Kidz Konnection.

We'll definitely do it again next year, look for info in the spring newsletter.

Kathy Manuel

Boys Outdoor Adventure

The Boys Outdoor Adventure picnic that was held at the home of Bo, Teresa, Nolan & Nathan Lonn on July 7 was a great time of fun and socializing with five other families. The weather was great and the kids had fun playing, going for a walk in the woods and cooking their hotdogs on the campfire. Daisy, our pig, along with our four rabbits, that run free in the yard, were a big highlight with everyone.

Nolan would like to thank Cameron, Luke, Jesse, Michael & Mikey for coming to play with him. Thank you Dave (Cameron's Dad) for coming as well to keep Bo (Nolan's Dad) company. It's great to see some of the fathers come out! Ladies, thank you for your goodies.

Lets do this again! Watch this newsletter for future events.

Teresa Lonn

Meeting with Education Minister Christy Clark

by: Teresa Kazemir

I was invited to attend a meeting with our new Education Minister, Christy Clark, in July. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together representatives from Special Education communities. The Minister wanted to know how the education system addresses the needs of students served by our organization.

CHHA-BC Parents' Branch had previously made a submission for the Special Education Review outlining the needs of hard of hearing children in the classroom as well as several recommendations for service delivery.

(Our paper is still posted on the Ministry's website www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/review/085hearing/intr o.htm)

At the meeting, various groups of children were represented: children with learning disabilities, gifted children, deaf children, children with autism, etc. The discussion covered several topics, including the lack of standards in service delivery, difficulty accessing assessment and therapy, difficulty for parents advocating within the system, and government funding.

Christy Clark did not have any quick solutions or funding increases to offer, but did appear to be actively listening to what everyone had to say. So, we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

"Building Partnerships" *Parents are welcome at the 2001 BC conference of CAEDHH* (Canadian Association of Educators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

October 19 and 20, 2001 - Eaglequest Golf Centers - 7778 - 152nd Street, Surrey, BC

- ✓ **TOPICS:** Supporting Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children and Families
 - ✓ Putting the Pieces Together: The Interpreter Puzzle
 - ✓ Early Language Development Through Multimedia
 - ✓ Professionals Working in Partnership Supporting Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students
 - ✓ Elements of Successful Integration: The Experience at Mountain Secondary
 - ✓ Take Note: A Workshop on Note-taking Techniques and Practices
 - ✓ The Reading Experiences of Signing Deaf High School Students
- ... plus a special performance by Deaf Mime Vlad Grigoriev

Registration fee for Parents - \$60 before October 12, \$85 after October 12

For a copy of the schedule and registration form, please call Janet Les at 604-794-3772



AND... another conference !!!



VARIETY CLUB FAMILY FOCUS CONFERENCE

A FAMILY ODYSSEY - OCTOBER 19-21, 2001 - Burnaby Hilton Metrotown

Friday, October 19, 2001 Registration & Reception

Saturday, October 20, 2001 Keynote Speaker & Workshops, Exhibits

SpaceCamp (kids), Galactic Groupies (youth)

Sunday, October 21, 2001 Workshops, SpaceCamp, Galactics & A Spectacular Closing Lunch

For more information or to receive a conference package, contact us: **Conference Message Line (604) 299-0181**
or call the Family Support Institute **(604) 875-1119** E-Mail: **familyfocus@telus.net**

Funded by: Variety Club of BC, Ministry for Children & Family Development and Human Resources Development Canada

Parent to Parent ...

by Teresa Lonn

Nolan's Telephone

Computer technology has been a lifesaver to the deaf and hard of hearing community! A person has access to family, friends and information around the world. You don't have to speech read or sign, use FM's or for that matter, use hearing aids. It certainly enhances life for the hearing impaired. The only necessary requirement is that the person at either end of the conversation has to have a computer!

This is the issue with our family. We have a computer, email and the whole business. I don't necessarily know how to use it all but I'm learning. The problem is that most of our extended family does not have a computer and probably never will. Therefore, we still use the almost obsolete communication of talking on the telephone.

Unfortunately, our son Nolan, who has a bilateral mild to profound hearing loss, disliked talking on the telephone since he could never hear anyone. The little amplification that is provided with the standard telephones is not satisfactory, even when Nolan put on his T Switch. My husband and I decided that we had to find a telephone that would meet Nolan's needs, because it was very important to us that Nolan could communicate with our extended family and friends.



I contacted the ever so helpful Brad Bice at WIDHH and he told me to bring Nolan down and we could try out various phones. Nolan was so excited that he was going to get his own phone. After trying a few, we decided that the **Ameriphone Dialogue XL-40** was best suited for Nolan. It amplifies up to 40 dB louder and has an easy to reach volume slide control and also a tone control which the person can adjust for their needs. You don't even have to use your T Switch. It also has a large illuminated number pad that flashes when there is an incoming call and many other features. I paid approx \$175.00 and no GST through WIDHH.

As soon as Nolan got home, he plugged in his new phone and phoned his Grandma in Vernon. Grandma was so excited to hear Nolan's voice because even though she phones frequently, Nolan would refuse to talk on the "regular" phone. This telephone has opened up a whole new world for Nolan and we are so thrilled for him.

Nolan's Wide Area Transmitter

Nolan attends Langley Christian School where every Friday there is chapel in the large gym. In order for Nolan to hear what was going on, it was necessary for Nolan's Phonic Ear Easy Listener transmitter with the microphone to be passed amongst the speakers. This tended to be awkward and disruptive to the flow of the program, plus the transmitter takes a beating.

I decided to phone Brad Bice at WIDHH and ask him if he knew of anything that could help Nolan hear better in the gym. Brad then told me about the **Wide Area Transmitter** that works in conjunction with Nolan's Easy Listener FM. Being ever so helpful, Brad came to the school and installed it for us. It is a box about 7"x 9" that plugs into the output socket of the school's sound system. All the microphones being used transmit their sound into Nolan's hearing aids, just like the transmitter on his FM. Nolan's receiver has to be turned on to the proper channel and the teacher's small transmitter has to be turned off. Voila! Nolan can hear everything being said in the somewhat noisy environment.

The only problem that we encountered, was that one day the music teacher, in the other wing of the school, was using the sound system in her classroom and forgot to turn the wide area transmitter off. It cut out Nolan's FM in the classroom. So you have to make sure that someone is in charge of turning on and off the transmitter.

This was the first time Nolan's audiologist had seen this equipment in use and she was very impressed. She wrote a convincing letter to the Ministry and got approval to purchase the wide area transmitter for Nolan. This is a first!! Again, it is just called a **Wide Area Transmitter** that works with the **Phonic Ear Easy Listener FM**. I highly recommend it.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

CHHA-BC Parents' Branch executive would REALLY like to see more parent involvement!

Please consider how YOU can be more active for the BENEFIT of all our kids:

- ✓ Write a "Parent to Parent" story for our newsletter
- ✓ Send a sample of your HoH child's writing or artwork for our newsletter's Kidz Konnection page (starting next issue!)
- ✓ Attend a parent evening and/or the annual conference
- ✓ Ask a local service club to sponsor your attending a parent evening or conference
- ✓ Attend or organize an event for hard-of-hearing kids and parents in your community
- ✓ Distribute our brochures/newsletters in your area (call Janet Les for information)
- ✓ Organize a fund raiser for CHHA- B.C. Parents' Branch
- ✓ Join the "Parent 2 Parent" support network - Call Cathy Chow at 604-251-6989
- ✓ Share this newsletter with other parents!

Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC) Update

Hi! I just wanted to update you on some of FNDC's happenings. We just wrapped up our Deaf Youth Today (DYT) Program that took place this past summer. We had an incredibly successful program which included camping at Hornby Island, horseback riding, mime classes, golf lessons etc., and an amazing week at the Delta Parks and Rec Program. To give you an example, during the Delta Parks and Rec. week, they ran a program entitled "Outdoor Adventure Camp". Delta Parks and Rec provided wonderful hearing camp leaders, and The Deaf Youth Today Program provided Deaf Youth Leaders, who teamed up (with interpreters) to provide an all inclusive, deaf, hard of hearing and hearing program that brought everyone together for a great learning experience in an outdoor setting (even if there was A LOT of rain that week).

While Family Network for Deaf Children and our Deaf Youth Today program are primarily for signing deaf children, we did invite hard of hearing kids/youth (who are interested in signing) to join us this past summer, and the staff/kids all commented how great it was to meet new friends.

Family Network for Deaf Children supports various programs and projects for deaf and hard of hearing children/youth and their families who either use sign language or are interested in embarking on a sign language journey. Our mandate is to provide social opportunities in a sign language environment.

The CHHA Parent's group does an fantastic job of supporting hard of hearing children (so we don't want to duplicate programs/support) - and that's why FNDC sticks primarily to "signing". We welcome any of you who are interested in signing. At the same time, we encourage any "signing" families to also receive info and support from CHHA. All parents should have access to as much info and support as possible.

We are currently working on 3 videotapes for learning sign language:

1. beginner visual communication to English as a Second Language families, as well as other families.
2. beginner ASL for oral deaf teens and hearing teens (siblings/cousins etc.) who wish to begin learning sign.
3. making visual sense: A beginner ASL video for families with deaf and hard of hearing kids.

These videos will be given away (for a small mailing fee) to families of deaf and hard of hearing children/youth in British Columbia. This project has been supported with a grant from the Ministry of Children and Families. If you are interested in receiving any of the videotapes, we encourage you to get added to our mailing list, so that when the announcement comes out, you can be first in line for your copy of the videos!

We also have upcoming Deaf Youth Today events, workshops and our literacy videos (the first one will be distributed this fall).

If you would like to receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter, please contact us at (604) 684-1860, and leave a message, or by email: **fn dc@home.com** Membership fees are \$15.00 for the year (includes: newsletters (Fall, Winter, Spring), Information Bulletins (periodically), as well as mailouts of all upcoming events/programs and videotapes). The \$15.00 helps us out a lot, as the mailing costs are very expensive.

Have a great "back to school" month! *Cecelia Klassen*, Director

Grant will Encourage Use of Internet to Improve Communication Skills

HiP Publishing Group, a San Francisco Bay Area-based producer of educational materials for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, has been awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) to encourage deaf/hh middle-school students to use real-time communication on the Internet to improve reading, writing and computer skills. This nationwide program is called HiP Chat Pals.

"The biggest challenge for deaf and hard-of-hearing children is being shut off from communication," says Ellen Dolich, the co-founder of HiP Publishing Group and program manager of HiP Chat Pals. "The Internet is an ideal medium for allowing deaf and hard-of-hearing children to communicate equally, since it does not require either hearing or speech," adds Dolich, who got the idea for the program from observing her own profoundly deaf teenager communicate fluently on the Net.

HiP Chat Pals' objectives are:

- ✓ to motivate deaf/hh students to read and write
- ✓ to improve written English skills
- ✓ to improve conversational etiquette, keyboarding and Internet skills
- ✓ to help students feel connected with their deaf and hard-of-hearing peers in different geographic regions of the U.S.

HiP "pals" in partnering schools will chat with one another, do projects and share ideas in real time while being guided through a specially designed curriculum. Three separate chat sessions, each lasting about four months and consisting of 16 lessons, will be conducted over a two-year span. The first session will begin in September 2001, and a total of 18 schools will participate, six in each session, with the last session ending in December 2002. Once sessions are completed, HiP will publish the curriculum and a report about the program on its Web site, encouraging other educators of the deaf and hard-of-hearing to create similar programs. *

"People with disabilities face a double 'digital divide' in that they need technology that is not only accessible but usable," says Rayna Aylward, executive director of the MEA Foundation. "It is our goal to enable young people with disabilities to use all appropriate technologies, so they don't get left behind on the wrong side of that divide.

Source: Business Wire - June 14, 2001

* SEE: www.hipworks.org

Auditory-Verbal Practice at Home

by: Debbie Gray, B.Ed., Cert. AVT

Part of my role as an itinerant teacher of children who are deaf or hard of hearing includes visiting preschool children in their homes. The families of these children are skilled at integrating the guiding principles of auditory-verbal practice into their daily lives and developing an auditory-verbal lifestyle. The following guiding principles of auditory-verbal practice are integrated into the daily lives of our children.

To pursue prompt and vigorous medical and audiologic management including management of hearing aids, a cochlear implant or other sensing aids.

- Does your child wear his hearing aids/speech processor during all his waking hours?
- Use the Ling six-sound plus test to establish a baseline of your child's responses, making it easier to identify changes in detection.
- Know how to trouble shoot equipment.
- Know who to contact if there is a problem.
- If your child is at daycare or in a preschool program, is there someone at the daycare who is familiar with your child's equipment? Are there spare batteries?
- Monitor noise levels in the listening environment when engaging your child in conversation. Is there someone operating the dishwasher or the vacuum cleaner? Is the radio or TV playing? Is the water running in the sink?
- Keep a diary, particularly in the initial stages to log your child's developing listening skills and vocalizations; this is useful information to share with your child's therapist and audiologist.

To help children integrate listening into their development of communication and social skills.

- Expect your child to respond to greetings by saying "hello" and "goodbye" as appropriate.
- Encourage one person at a time to speak at the dinner table, allowing the child with hearing loss time to locate the speaker, take a turn in the conversation and follow the conversation.
- Have a family "game night" to develop turn-taking skills, play by the rules, developing the language associated with game playing.
- Take a listening walk at home, in the community, saying "listen" or "I hear that" in response to sounds heard: appliances, the door bell, the phone, the dog, the traffic, the birds, the ambulance.

To support the child's auditory-verbal development through one-to-another teaching.

- Some children are willing to sit at a table with their parents for a more formal auditory-verbal home lesson others are not. Parents know their child best and become skilled at teaching their child whether sitting at the table or on the floor.
- Stay close to the child's microphone.
- Use acoustic highlighting as explained by your child's therapist.

- Study activities your child enjoys and decide how to incorporate weekly speech, language and listening goals into that activity.
- Give your child real-life experiences, go to the zoo, to the farm, to the beach, to the playground, to the library.
- Develop a love of books, one of many great gifts you can give your child; sharing a favourite book is a special time for closeness as well as an exceptional skill building opportunity.
- Use motherese/fatherese; repeat the child's utterances, repeat key words, respond to the child's vocalizations.

To help children monitor their own voices and the voices of others in order to enhance the intelligibility of their spoken language.

- Parents know how many times and when to ask their child to repeat a word or sound when developing a speech target.
- Consider what your child enjoys/does when choosing vocabulary to develop a specific speech sound.
- Take away bottles and soothers when you're encouraging your child in conversation.
- Give your child time to respond.

To use developmental patterns of listening, language, speech and cognition to stimulate natural communication.

- The child needs lots of listening experience to learn that words have meaning.
- Use familiar expressions and phrases learned in therapy in daily routines at home.
- Children learn language best when engaged in play in meaningful interactions.
- Bathe your child in language using short, simple, grammatically correct sentences.
- Integrate strategies such as observing, waiting and listening into daily routines.
- Comment on your child's activities rather than conducting interrogations.

To provide support services to facilitate children's educational and social inclusion.

- Become involved in parent groups; knowledge is empowering. Learn the resources available in your community; find out which programs are welcoming to children with special needs; become familiar with the impact of deafness on language learning.
- Contact your school board and enquire about services available for children with hearing loss.
- Introduce yourself to your Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) rep who is your representative to the board of education.
- Ask your preschool home visiting teacher to in-service the staff at your child's pre-school program.

For similar articles, see www.learningtolisten.org
Website of Learning to Listen Foundation, Toronto, Ontario



CHHA - B.C. Parents' Branch

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association



Membership is open to any individual or organization who supports our objectives. Annual membership fee is \$20. Donations are welcome and needed by CHHA - BC Parents= Branch.

Membership in the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association entitles you to vote on any CHHA matter, and to receive a subscription to LISTEN magazine, CHHA-BC=s newsletter *The Loop* and the Parents= Branch newsletter.

_____		Parent(s)	Professional	Other
NAME				
_____		H of H Child(ren)		
MAILING ADDRESS				
_____		Name	Birthdate	
PHONE	FAX - if applicable			
	New Membership	Renewal	Donation \$	_____

Thank you! Your support benefits deaf and hard-of-hearing children in BC...

Payable to: CHHA - B.C. Parents= Branch - c/o 10150 Gillanders Road; Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4 - Phone: 604-794-3772

B.C. Children's Hospital Family Resource Library

The Family Resource Library is B.C.'s Children's Hospital's health science library for parents, youths, children, teachers, and caregivers. They keep resources in everyday language about children's and youth's well-being, disease, behaviour, growth and development.

The Family Resource Library has a collection of over 1500 books, 500 videos, 300 files of pamphlets and brochures. Anyone in B.C. can borrow free of charge, and they will mail materials to families outside the lower mainland.

Telephone: 604 875-2345 local 7644

Email: famreslib@cw.bc.ca

Website: www.cw.bc.ca

Kindergarten Hearing Screening

All B.C. school children should receive hearing tests during their kindergarten year. Don't be surprised if your hard-of-hearing child "fails" this test and receives an audiology referral. According to public health audiologist Bonny Wood, it is not necessary to make an extra appointment for hearing testing. Children with confirmed hearing loss are called for regular hearing evaluations.

The following news was widely reported in American media...

Millions of kids have hearing loss

An estimated 5.2 million American youngsters have some degree of hearing loss from such sources of noise as rock concerts, fireworks and lawn mowers, government research suggests.

The figures do not indicate what percentage have simply temporary, slightly muffled hearing or more severe, permanent damage. But the researchers said the numbers are worrisome and they urged the use of ear plugs.

"Even when you have temporary damage for a few days such as muffled hearing, that can influence the child's ability to learn in the classroom," said Amanda Niskar, a nurse-epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who led the study.

The findings, based on 5,249 participants in a nationally representative 1988-94 survey, appear in the July issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

Participants were given hearing tests in which researchers looked for noise-induced hearing threshold shifts, or NITS. When extrapolated to the rest of the nation, the findings indicate the presence of NITS in 12.5 percent of all Americans ages 6 to 19 - or 5.2 million young people. That suggests at least a one-time exposure to excessive noise, Niskar said.

The findings also suggest that 4.9 percent - or 250,000 young people - have moderate to profound NITS. That suggests possibly permanent damage, Niskar said.

Noise "is an environmental and community problem for children," Niskar said. "We need to push for children to wear hearing protection during noisy activities because NITS is entirely preventable."

Source: Associated Press