

CHHA Conference 2003

Friday & Saturday - October 3 & 4, 2003

Ramada Inn Conference Centre - Abbotsford

(Highway #1 - 1 hour east of Vancouver)

Programs for all ages - Speakers include Teachers, Parents, Students, and Hard of Hearing Adults! Topics include coping skills, impact of hearing loss, family dynamics, advocacy, supporting each other, classroom strategies, foreign language learning, etc. -- SOMETHING for EVERYONE!

Details enclosed - Hope to see you there!

A.G.M. Announcement: The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - BC Parents' Branch 6th Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, October 4, 2003 - 1:30 pm at the Ramada Inn, Abbotsford, BC

Call for nominations: If you would like to let your name stand for a position on the Board, would like to nominate someone, or request information, please contact current President Teresa Kazemir at 604-552-2254 or Email: kazemir@shaw.ca **Board members are urgently needed.**

Vancouver Oral Centre proudly presents

A workshop for parents with Dr. Lyn Robertson

Working Toward Reading How can Parents get Involved?

Saturday, October 26, 2003 - 9 am to 12 pm

Cost: \$15 per person, \$20 per couple

Pre-Registration required - please call 604-437-0255

Dr. Robertson is a leader in the field of deafness and reading from Denison University, Ohio. She not only trains teachers but has also raised her own deaf child. Her workshop will offer ways you can help your child with reading at all stages of development. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Real time captions and sound system will be used

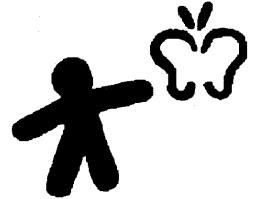
CHHA Parents' Branch newsletter is **FREE** to all families with hard of hearing children in British Columbia. Printing and postage funding is gratefully received from BC Children's Hospital Family Support Group. Please call or write us to receive this newsletter directly rather than from your teacher.

We appreciate you notifying us of address or email changes. Thanks!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Further information inside or call us...

- Sept 26-28 Cued Speech workshop - BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
- Oct 3, 4 CHHA - BC annual conference and Kidz Konnection
- Oct 15-18 Canadian Academy of Audiology conference - Vancouver
Info: <http://www.canadianaudiology.ca/>
- Oct 17, 19 BCASLPA conference - Vancouver, <http://www.bcaslpa.bc.ca/>
- Oct 23, 24 "Literacy: Investment in the Future" CAEDHH-BC conference, Surrey. Info 604-664-8300, email svangurp@south.sd41.bc.ca
- Oct 29 Reading workshop, Dr. Robertson - Vancouver Oral Centre
- July 2004 Family Camp - Monck Park at Nicola Lake

September 2003



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

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

Note from your president...

I just want to let everyone know that I will be stepping down from the position of president this year. It's been a very enjoyable three years, and I've learned a lot and met some great people. I plan to continue to be involved in CHHA Parents' Branch, but in a smaller role. I have been stretched a little too thin between my family, my private practice, my work with CHHA, and my other volunteer activities.

It's time for someone new to step forward and accept the challenge of president for the coming term. It is a great way to network, become involved, and learn! If you're interested in learning more about what's out there for hard of hearing kids, what's missing, how you can help other parents, and how to advocate for your child, this is the job for you!! For more information about the position and what it entails, please email me at ka-zemir@shaw.ca *Teresa Kazemir*



families as well. The Lonns have a wonderful property for this event. Daisy the pot bellied pig delights the children, and was described by one as "a warm, breathing composter." Games and relays ensured that kids and parents were included in the fun, and that no one had a chance to feel shy or left out. The children collected tickets for participating in activities, and then traded them in at the 'store' for goodies. Talk about a big hit! Nolan, Nathan, Landon and Adam deserve special mention for being the targets of the wet sponge-tossing event. Even the parents lined up for this one!

The food was varied and plentiful, but as always, getting together because of our common bond, our children, was the most special part of the day. Having a child with a hearing loss presents challenges. Events like this create a way for families to share, support and learn from each other. New connections were made, and I'm hoping to see more of these families at our conference in October. A thousand thanks to Teresa, Bo, Nolan and Nathan for having us! *Leila Lolua*

Picnic another Great Success!

Thanks to the Lonn family!

Teresa and Bo Lonn generously hosted a picnic in Langley home on Saturday August 16th. Sixteen families joined the festivities, with an especially large turnout from the Chinese Parents Group, and some new

2003 Nicola Lake Camping Trip – First annual ! ? !

We had a GREAT camping trip!!! It was so much fun for kids and adults alike. We had nine families, from as far away as Smithers, Williams Lake, Salmon Arm, Kamloops, and the Lower Mainland. The central location seemed to be a way of connecting families who have a hard time travelling to the conference.

Of course there were a few glitches along the way. Loluas had to be towed from the Coquihala Toll Both into Merritt, then finally arrived at camp (they went one day early) only to find there were no sites available until our reservations the next day... Lacayos van overheated on the Coquihala...all five of Higginson's kids threw up at least once... Kazemirs drove most of the trip with their transmission indicator light on, but luckily nothing blew up... Routleys missed the exit, and drove part way to Spences Bridge before

they could turn around... Plommers caught heck from the Parks people for bringing in firewood for everyone (we thought that was a great idea, saved us from paying \$5 a bundle!!).

But it was so worth all the effort to get there! It was like meeting a bunch of long-lost friends. Mulligans had enough food for everybody, and Leila was busy sharing her food to drop weight in hopes of getting their vehicle home again in one piece! Five-year-old Aaron Hicks (hard of hearing) was heard saying in amazement "There's *another* kid with a hearing aid...there's *another* one!" And the highlight of the weekend was **definitely** the water-skiing and tubing. The Williams were our heroes... Ron spent 3 1/2 hours non-stop pulling kids and adults around the lake. Even 4-year old Victoria Higginson and 6-year old Ethan Kazemir took a spin together in the tube!

The most amazing coincidence of the weekend was running into the Sherwoods from Osoyoos (they have 2 hard of hearing kids) who just happened to be there for the day with a friend from England, who just happened to be a distant cousin of Hamish Plommer's!

By the last night (after the egg toss and scavenger hunt, the s'mores and the campfire, the swimming and rafting, the relaxing and visiting) we all agreed that we want to do it again next year. Thanks to all you campers for making it such a great weekend!! *Teresa Kazemir*

Watch in the January and May newsletters for camping registration info for next summer...we'll try for the same weekend (end of July) and we'll have to reserve early again (end of April), mark your calendars!!



Gord Higginson, daughters Victoria and Ashley, Jesse & Ethan Kazemir

It's time for our annual conference!!! October 3 and 4, 2003

The conference is coming up fast this year...the first Friday/Saturday in October! All the information you need to register is enclosed with this newsletter, so look it over and send in your registration A.S.A.P.! We are looking forward to hearing from our speakers this year... Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Surrey and Delta School Districts, Susan Lane from the B.C. Family Hearing Resource Centre, and Amy and Rosalind Ho with a panel of parents from the "Chinese Parents of the Hearing-Impaired Society." The plenary speakers this year also sound great...Dr. Ruth Warick, an active member of CHHA who recently finished her Ph.D. looking at social and academic issues for university students who are hard of hearing...and another speaker will discuss relationships between hard of hearing and hearing family members.

Following a brief AGM, Susan Lane will give us an update on newborn hear-

ing screening in B.C., Joyce Stowell will tell us about her efforts to start up an advocacy/support group in the Okanagan, Teresa Lonn will share her experiences speaking to nursing students, and Leila Lolua will give us some pointers on how to write an effective letter.

During the Friday dinner hour, we will be providing light snacks for those who choose to stay and socialize, while those preferring a full dinner will be on their own. Then we will regroup for "story time!" Aileen Hollifield, a retired Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and author, will read one of her stories for children and adults alike. This will be followed by some Tai Chi group activities...sounds like an interesting evening!! On Saturday lunch will be provided, and the workshops will run until 4:30.

We have not yet received confirmation, but are hoping that the Jeremy

Chiao Foundation Grant will be available again this year to assist families with travel and conference expenses. Please contact Janet Les (604 794-3772 or janetles@canada.com) to request financial assistance.



For those of you looking for a place to stay, there are several options. Call the hotel for family room rates – mention the CHHA conference for special rate. A limited number of rooms are available at Victory Hill residence in Burnaby (part of the Provincial School for the Deaf) but it is almost an hour drive from the conference. 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 or information on local B&B, etc., please contact Janet Les at 604-794-3772. *Teresa K*

Teen Koneksi - The conference is fast approaching and I would like to meet with all those teens that are interested in helping plan out the details of your program. Please contact me, Teresa Lonn at lonns@primus.ca

Programs for Children and Youth

Space is limited, so please phone early!!

Under 6: KIDDIE KARE

Two to three adults will provide childcare in a room near the main conference area. Various activities will be planned, with lots of toys, games, and crafts on hand. Please bring snacks and drinks for your child in a labeled bag. You will be responsible for your children at mealtimes. For information, please contact Jamie Mulligan at (604)463-7180 or email riana@telus.net We especially hope to accommodate families travelling from out of town.

Age 6 to 11: KIDZ KONNECTION

Games, crafts, movies, miniature golf, bumper cars, go-carts and lots of socializing! Meet old friends, make new friends. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. For information, please contact **Teresa Lonn at (604)533-9878** or email lonns@primus.ca

Age 12 to 18: TEEN KONNECTION

Games, crafts, miniature golf, bumper cars, go-carts and lots of socializing! Meet old friends, make new friends. Teens will also have the opportunity to listen to conference speaker Ruth Warick. See Conference Information Sheet for details. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. For information, please contact **Teresa Lonn at (604)533-9878** or email lonns@primus.ca.

Share your knowledge about hearing loss...

Last Spring and this Summer, I was asked by a neighbor of mine and her colleague, who both teach nursing at Kwantlen University in Surrey, to come and speak to their second year students about hearing loss and how it affects our son and our family. Also, the class wanted to know what strategies would be beneficial for the nursing community in communicating with the hard of hearing patients.

I brought along a spare hearing aid and the hearing stethoscope so each person could listen to what a hearing aid sounds like. What an eye opener for all of them, especially when we shifted chairs, rustled paper and talked at the same time. The next challenge for the students was trying to read my lips.

It was amazing how fast 1½ hours goes by. I am not a professional public speaker and I was certainly nervous the first time, but I find it is a whole lot easier to talk about something you are very passionate about.

The class had a very positive response and the teacher asked me if CHHA has thought about approaching the nursing programs with a program like I did to help educate them about hearing loss and its affects to people and the community. I feel it is a wonderful opportunity for myself and maybe for CHHA if we decide to pursue this type of program further.

Teresa Lonn

Parent to Parent. . .



A Tilley Encounter... Or Batteries Show up in the Oddest Places

If you've ever read a Tilley catalogue, you'll know they're peppered with stories of their well-travelled hats. We've got another one for them!

On arriving at Nicola Lake to rendezvous with a friend, our son, Mark, shouted in surprise "Hey, there's Hart! And Tasha! And Leila! Playing bocce!" We'd completely forgotten this was the CHHA camping weekend! As we approached the players, Mark said "Oh no, my hearing aid battery died." Leila, clad only in her bathing suit and Tilley hat, said "No problem, Mark, I've got some!" And with a magician's flourish, she whipped off her hat and extracted a package of hearing aid batteries from its secret compartment. Mark's day was saved and we have a story for Tilley!

P.S. To make a small world smaller, our friend turned out to be Hart's cousin!
Deb Sherwood, Osoyoos, B.C.

On the Web...

I recently found a great website: www.deaftoday.com and it lists all the daily news articles from around the world that have anything to do with "deaf".

Newspaper articles from all over – and its great to share with our deaf kids. Some are informative, some crazy and others are totally inspiring.
Cecelia Klassen, Burnaby, B.C.

Remembering Dr. Daniel Ling

By Janet Les



Dr. Daniel Ling passed away peacefully at his home in Cobble Hill, BC from cancer on August 9, 2003 at the age of 77.

As a music teacher in England, Dr. Ling encountered a young child who was deaf and was inspired to find ways to teach this student. This, and his interest in acoustics - throughout his life, he made and played his own violins, violas, and cellos with amazing acoustic quality - led him to study audiology and education of the deaf at the University of Manchester. This was the beginning of his life's legacy of teaching deaf children to listen and speak. Dr. Ling immigrated to Canada in 1963 to serve as Principal of the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. After 20 years of research and teaching at McGill University, he served as a dean at the University of Western Ontario.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Ling was involved in many national and international committees concerned with human communication. He served as president of AG Bell in the early 1980s, and co-founded Auditory-Verbal International (AVI). He has received numerous honors and awards for his teaching and research. In 1999 Dr. Ling was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of his original contributions to, and ongoing work with, hearing impaired children and their parents internationally. In recent years, Dr. Ling was still very active as a speaker and writer.

Eyes to Hear

By Shelley Berezon

To have a voice with no voice,
Meaning is in your hands

Intuition becomes a language
To convey ideas of the mind, in silence

It takes touch to be seen, eyes to be known
Pure joy of not knowing is. . . Innocence?

My tender heart how can I help you?
It is agony seeing beyond what will be
Inevitable pain, mixing of tears yours and mine

To live the life of normality was assumed by me,
Unquestioned by you
Vulnerability is now so apparent

How can we know without eyes to hear?
You see for me
I hear for you
Together our world is more

Shelley Berezon is mother of 7 year old Ryan who received a cochlear implant when he was 3. She wrote this poem while engaged in a research project for her Masters in nursing at University of Victoria. It comes from her heart.

I first met Dr. Ling in 1987 at a workshop in Seattle when I was an anxious mother of a toddler with severe hearing loss. In answer to a mother's query about her son's speech, he asked the young teenaged son if he was willing to have "on-the-spot" therapy. I was so impressed with Dr. Ling's sensitivity towards his subject and ability to diagnose and recommend exercises and strategy.

The LING 6 SOUND TEST is perhaps what most parents associate with Dr. Ling. Who of us hasn't checked hearing or hearing aid or FM function across the speech spectrum with the familiar OO AH EE SH MM SS?

But what I will most remember about Dr. Ling is his strong belief in and support of parents. Addressing our CHHA – BC conference in October 2000, Dr. Ling said,

Parents are by far the most important agents for developing the auditory-verbal skills of their children. One's first language is not referred to as one's "mother tongue" without good reason... Primary focus on the parents and the home rather than on schooling promotes the early development of language and communication and minimizes later educational problems, for optimal learning cannot proceed without effective communication.

Dr. Ling was a gift to parents of children with hearing loss. Not only did he provide the tools, wisdom, and example for us, he also promoted our ability, as parents, to teach our children to be all that they can be. He believed in us, and that is why we loved him.

Strategies for Parents to Help with Speech At Home by Dr. Marietta M. Paterson

Our Spring Workshop held in Vancouver on May 8 featured Marietta Paterson, Director of the Vancouver Oral Centre. It was well attended and, just in time for summer break, parents were given good ideas for helping their child's speech. In a fast-paced 2-hour presentation, Marietta walked us through a number of topics, including the two summarized here.

NASALITY

What is it?

- poor production of nasal versus oral sounds and /or an overall nasal quality to the voice

What is the cause?

- Velopharyngeal insufficiency – the velum (soft palate) does not do its job effectively- that is to open and close rapidly to make oral or nasal sounds
- Feeling the vibration versus listening for oral/nasal contrast

What are the nasal sounds of English? Um, un, ung

What are the oral sounds of English? All the others – consonants and vowels

How can you help fix this speech problem?

Input:

- Audition: make sure the child can hear the difference between nasal and oral speech:
 - > At sentence level - My name is Bobby [nasal] versus My name is Bobby [oral]
 - > At syllable level - ma vs ba
- Change “ feeling” the vibration to listening to the oral-nasal contrast

Production:

- You can't make the velum do exercises but you can create syllable drills that make the velum work hard – repair the body's physical memory of that small rapid internal movement of the velum
- Monitor this work through listening. For example: umba, umsha, eeshme, eeshma
- Overall voice quality- tell the child to throw the voice forward, and articulate like opera singers – this will produce a more oral sound
- increase mouth opening to increase oral resonance

Question from parent:

I am a familiar listener and speaker partner with my child, how can I figure out how to help my child understand that he/she is not always clear?

- Find an unfamiliar listener to give you some feedback about your child's speech: What is the type of speech problem?
 - Are there sounds that the child cannot say that are missing?
 - Are there some sounds that are always confused with another sound?
 - How does the child's conversational speech sound? Is it fluent? Are there stops and starts? Too soft, too loud?
- Use pictures and words, sentences and stories to support syllable drill and practice.
- Use the consonant “set” page to see which sounds are more the same and therefore more easy to confuse and which are more different. (Contact us if you would like a copy, Ed)

Consonants are different in 3 ways:

- PLACE of production
- Manner that is HOW they are produced
- Whether they are produced with voice or without voice
- Use the vowel chart to invent your own set of practice words to extend into phrases.
- Find meaningful language for the child to practice.
- Look for the hard spots when the child is trying to “coarticulate” – that means going from word to word. Mark the difficult transitions in colour and break it down into syllables

So, lessons should have some listening practice, Syllable to syllable practice – in set syllables or words, and Sentence to sentence practice.

Know Your Rights Resource

Some children with hearing loss also have learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorder. The Learning Disabilities Association of B.C. has published a guide for parents and students called “Know Your Rights,” which gives valuable education information. Please request a copy from us or access it on-line at <http://www.knowyourrights.ca/>

Cued Speech Workshop for Beginning Cuers

Learn to Cue in a weekend!

Friday, September 26, 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday, September 28, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Location: BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
15220 – 92 Avenue, Surrey, BC

Please pre-register to receive necessary pre-workshop study materials. Call BCFHRC at (604) 584-2827 or instructor Marianne Flanagan, SLP at 403-239-6988 (Calgary) Email msfincal@shaw.ca
Tuition is \$200 per registrant with discounts for families and students.

For information on cued speech see www.cuedspeech.com

The Older Kids... by PAM Candlish

Patricia Ann Morgan Candlish of London, Ontario is mother of Reid (19) who is hard of hearing. She is the author of "Not Deaf Enough: Raising a child who is hard of hearing with hugs, humor and imagination" published by A.G.Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing <http://www.agbell.org/> Available: BCFHRC library <http://www.bcfamilyhearing.com> The following thoughtful commentary is used with permission of the author, from <http://www.hardofhearingchildren.com/>

There is a group of relatively sad parents whose hard of hearing children are now young adults. Periodically I hear from these parents because the child is in a drug or alcohol abuse crisis, which either has smoldered through the teens, or erupted after school. The parents were doing their best, and were told not to expect problems from the minor hearing loss. They feel frustrated and guilty, and some begin mourning the hearing loss, or the parental role.

... So we have a group of young adults who probably have excellent natural lipreading skills which helps them to get by, but who are withdrawn socially because of the isolation of an unremediated hearing loss, possibly even if they had hearing aids, the fatigue creating a natural path away from other people to a less tiring non-listening world. The unrelenting sadness of the isolation sometimes leading directly to drugs or alcohol abuse.

Jamie MacDougall, a psychologist for the Deaf in Montreal told me long ago that life was better after school was finished because the hearing-impaired person could choose what they wanted to do, instead of fighting to get through school. This is probably true, but I also think that the goals and outcomes may be very limited with a hearing loss. Then I think about Howard Hughes...

So What Can You Do now?

- If your young adult has **older hearing aids, try to replace them** with the best you can afford. Get an FM too.
- It is never too late to **learn about earshot**, and start making sure any person who does not hear well has the best possible opportunity to hear by having speakers move closer to them.
- Listen critically to your child's speech, perhaps using a tape recorder. If there are speech problems, then **finding a speech pathologist** will help. I was listening with Reid to a beautiful lady wrestler on American Gladiators who happens to be deaf, and has speech pathology available to her every day. Her sign language also gives her and her teammate an edge in the noise of competition, so she's completely bi-lingual.
- You have to put the miseries away about not ending up doing your best for the child because you followed the wrong directions. Yes, you could have done a more scientific job if you had known, but I know many parents in these boots and they were running hard and fast, or they believed what they were told. **And I bet you still love your child, and that is all that counts at the end of the day. You love your child.**

- From the day the child was diagnosed, the child accepts increasing responsibility for self-maximization. When the child is an old teenager, or a young adult, your role as commander is finished, and you step down to a consultative role, which pays equally well in love, and you have a choice about whether you want to be still involved, or on the outside looking in, and your information is still important, but you are not frantically trying to solve all the problems.
- Of course, if the child is going through getting rid of the hearing aids, which is traditionally acceptable, focus all your energies for one more battle. The technology of hearing aids today is so much better. **There is nothing different between being a child with a hearing loss and being an adult with a hearing loss. If you cannot hear, you cannot hear, your age makes no difference.** But traditionally the mild/moderate hearing loss group was expected to try and get rid of the hearing aids without parents enforcing them.
- Sometimes the problems of being hard of hearing are just too overwhelming. If it is possible, **get a social worker for your young adult.** It does not have to be a frequent contact, but can be a terrific resource.

The Importance of Phonemic Awareness

Before children can make any sense of the alphabetic principle, they must understand that those sounds that are paired with the letters are one and the same as the sounds of speech. For those of us who already know how to read and write, this realization seems very basic, almost transparent. Nevertheless, research shows that the very notion that spoken language is made up of sequences of these little sounds does not come naturally or easily to human beings.

The small units of speech that correspond to letters of an alphabetic writing system are called *phonemes*. Thus, the awareness that language is composed of these small sounds is termed *phonemic awareness*. Research indicates that, without direct instructional support, phonemic awareness eludes roughly 25% of middle-class first graders and substantially more of those who come from less literacy-rich backgrounds. Furthermore, these children evidence serious difficulty in learning to read and write.

Why is awareness of phonemes so difficult? The problem, in large measure, is that people do not attend to the sounds of phonemes as they produce or listen to speech. Instead, they process the phonemes automatically, directing their active attention to the meaning and force of the utterance as a whole. The challenge, therefore, is to find ways to get children to notice the phonemes, to discover their existence and separability. Fortunately, many of the activities involving rhyme, rhythm, listening, and sounds that have long been enjoyed with pre-school-age children are ideally suited for this purpose. In fact, with this goal in mind, all such activities can be used effectively toward helping children to develop phonemic awareness.

Excerpted from Phonemic Awareness in Young Children. (Marilyn Jager Adams et al) <http://www.brookespublishing.com/literacy>

I hope to bring special understanding and empathy... by Kelly A. Mankin

Editor: We continue our series on inspiring young adults with hearing loss by reprinting a column by Kelly Mankin - Volta Voices July/Aug 2003

I didn't stumble into the world of audiology by accident. I started down this road the day I was born. Shortly before my first birthday, My parents learned that what they thought was a temporary hearing loss, was, in fact, permanent. I was diagnosed with a bilateral, severe-to-profound, sensorineural hearing loss, presumably congenital with an unknown etiology.

Initially, my parents were overwhelmed and shocked. However, they were given sound advice when the audiologist at Children's National Medical Center answered my mother's "Why?" and my father's "How did this happen?" Her advice: "You can spend the rest of your life wondering why or how this happened and never get an answer, or you can move forward and do something positive with your daughter's life."

I received amplification following the initial diagnosis at 1 year old. At that time, it was a body aid. I became the first infant to enroll in the parent-infant program at a public school in Fairfax County, VA. Working closely with audiologists my entire life, I have lived, breathed, and absorbed everything I could learn. I continue to be fascinated by the technology of sound, only now it's

from a different perspective. After receiving my Master's degree and completing a clinical fellowship, I became a clinical audiologist at Children's Hospital and Health Care Center of San Diego.

When invited to share my experiences as an audiologist who is deaf, I thought about why I had entered a field with difficult hurdles ahead. Prior to entering this career, I did a lot of research and asked many professionals if this was something they thought a person with hearing loss could do. Critical listening is imperative; taking case histories, performing listening checks on hearing aids, completing speech discrimination tests, listening for the critical baby cry or suckle while completing tests that are sensitive to noise. The encouragement to face these challenges motivated me to open new doors.

I hope to bring special understanding and empathy to the patients I serve. I marvel at the reaction from children when they gaze wide-eyed and open-mouthed seeing I have hearing aids, too. Parents often ask, "What kind of hearing aids are you wearing?" Or "what is that around your neck?" I have learned to maximize my lipreading skills during speech perception testing and I use the FM system to capture as much auditory information as possible. I try to take every opportunity to educate fellow audiologists on what it is like to grow up in a world without sound. I empathize with

the adult who is frustrated because it is difficult to discriminate in noisy environments and the child who hates the FM system because "it's different."

I also entered this field to help parents adjust to a child's hearing loss. I have had several encounters with parents who are still grieving and denying their child's deafness. At first, I couldn't relate to the negative attitude. Using a positive attitude that I learned from my own parents, I am able to help parents move on after hearing the word "hearing loss" and "deafness."

At Children's Hospital and Health Care Center of San Diego, I enjoy diagnostic audiology, cochlear implant MAPping and evaluations, and serving as the educational liaison for the Cochlear Implant Team and Audiology Department. Our cochlear implant team is a neutral and resourceful one. I enjoy collaborating with fellow audiologists, speech-language pathologist, psychologists, surgeons, and educators, all of whom work together to give support and guidance to parents.

The rapid changes in audiology keep me learning about new advances in the field. The knowledge of technology combined with patience, empathy, and a little humor enables me to give back to the world that has given me so much.

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Homographs

The puzzling idiosyncrasies of English are a challenge for hard of hearing kids. Figures of speech, idioms, jokes, homographs, homonyms, and homophones... Homographs are words that have the same spelling but differ in origin, meaning, and sometimes pronunciation. Can your child name the word that shares these definitions?

1. Building where money is kept OR the sides of a river
2. A child OR a baby goat
3. A place with trees OR to put a car in a particular place
4. A loud noise OR another name for soda
5. The earth beneath you OR the past tense of "to grind"
6. A fruit-flavored drink OR to hit something with your fists
7. Place of learning OR a group of fish
8. A layer of paint OR a heavy jacket
9. Something you light to start a fire OR 2 things that go together

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

10. One who throws a baseball OR a container for pouring beverages
11. Part of a branch that has fallen OR to cling to something
12. Money you owe for bringing things back late OR feeling okay
13. Trash OR to say no to doing something
14. To be first in line OR a kind of metal

Answers: bank, kid, park, pop, ground, punch, school, coat, match, pitcher, stick, fine, refuse, lead



CHHA - B.C. Parents' Branch

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association



Membership is open to any individual or organization that 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.

NAME

Parent(s) Professional Other

MAILING ADDRESS

H of H Child(ren)

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

Name

Birthdate

For the Love of Lyndon *By Lynda Cobb*

On February 5, 1997 a beautiful 4-lb 10-oz. baby boy was born 8 weeks prematurely. Lyndon was to be the joy of his family but he had a rough beginning. He underwent numerous surgeries to help stabilize his condition.

At 6 weeks Lyndon had his first of many hearing tests. I was very confident that all would be fine but the results were not good. The audiologist was not certain if it was a malfunctioning machine or Lyndon who was unable to respond to the test. A re-test a few weeks later was the same.

As a parent, you want what's best for your child. I was no different. I was not ready to hear that Lyndon has no hearing. He had already had numerous other medical issues due to being premature. I felt I could not take the hearing loss. But I had no choice. You see, I could vacuum all around the living room and baby Lyndon would remain asleep. I knew deep down in my soul that he had a hearing loss. All that was left was to determine the extent of loss.

After further testing, Lyndon was fitted with hearing aids. I was heart broken. At that time I felt that Life for us would never be the same. The day the audiologist called to say Lyndon's hearing aids were ready, I cried all the way to the hospital. Here was this beautiful baby on my lap. I had tears running down my cheeks as I tried to fit the hearing aids into his ears.

The questions that went through my mind were probably the same for every parent of a child who has a hearing loss. Will he talk? Will he be able to be mainstreamed? Will he have friends? What will his life be like? I cried for days off and on. I felt defeated before I got started.

Initially Lyndon had difficulty adjusting to the aids because of poor fitting ear molds. Once the mold issue was conquered, Lyndon became a full-time hearing aid user.

In fact Lyndon was one of the lucky ones. Yes, lucky because he was fitted for hearing aids at the age of 8 months. The early age of diagnosis meant early intervention. We worked

constantly on Lyndon's language development. Every waking moment was full of language. At the end of each day, I couldn't talk to anyone. I had no language left inside of me.

When Lyndon was a year and a half we learned about the John Tracy Clinic (JTC) in Los Angeles through CHHA Newfoundland (CHHA-NC). After much consideration, we put all our resources together and fundraised so we could attend the JTC summer camp. In June 1999 we attended the camp, the only family from Canada, let alone from Newfoundland. We spent three weeks in parent sessions while Lyndon went to school with seven children aged two and three years old.

I was in awe to see him in class. I wanted him to talk and to be in the hearing world. Lyndon did talk. It seemed like overnight it all came together for him. We were on top of the world.

When I returned from JTC I began my work with CHHA-NC to help start its Parents' Group under the guidance of Dr. Brown and Mel Hurdle. The group helps parents of hard of hearing children offer support to each other. Over the last two years the group has done wonderful things for both children and their parents, as well as for CHHA, which included hosting a conference with keynote speakers from JTC.

Lyndon is now five years old and he is speaking in full sentences. He has come a long way, and so have his parents. Each day he makes progress into the world of speech and listening. Questions about his future are still on my mind, but I now know that he will do just fine with the help of his family and friends.

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Editor: The Cobb family lives in Mount Pearl, NFLD. Lyndon has successfully finished mainstream Kindergarten. He is enjoying the summer at Mad Science Camp and Reading School. Lyndon will be starting Grade One in September in a class size of 23. Lynda is aware that it will be a challenge for him, but with the aid of "Hushh-ups" on the tips of the chairs to absorb sound, his teacher using The Easy Listener System and lots of home support they believe that he will do well. We surely agree!