

Inside NIDCD Newsletter
 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
 www.nidcd.nih.gov
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IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE STORIES

- Study Shows Variety of Approaches Help Children Overcome Auditory Processing and Language Problems

RECENT NEWS

- NIDCD Grantee Wins PECASE Award
- NIDCD Official Is Honored by ASHA
- NIDCD Postdoc Receives 'Best Paper' Award for Discovery of Key Proteins Function in Hearing
- Author of Newborn Hearing Screening Legislation to Retire
- TDIA Issues Notices on Risk of Bacterial Meningitis in Children with Cochlear Implants
- Potential Risk of Sudden Hearing Loss Prompts Label Changes for ED Drugs

NIDCD HIGHLIGHTS

- Scientists Identify Phenomena that Trigger Aggression between Male Mice
- Researchers Find a Genetic Cause for Hearing Loss That's Inherited from Mother

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- LOOK FOR NIDCD AT THESE MEETINGS
- BEYOND NIDCD: NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

NEW RESOURCES

- Updated Version of NIDCD Resources Directory Available
- Updated Brochures Help with Research Career Planning and Grant Writing

Study Shows Variety of Approaches Help Children Overcome Auditory Processing and Language Problems

For children who struggle to learn language, the choice between various interventions may matter less than the intensity and format of the intervention, a new NIDCD-sponsored study suggests. The study, led by Ronald B. Gillam, Ph.D., of Utah State University is online at <http://jshr.asha.org/cgi/content/abstract/51/1/197> (full text is available for a fee), in the February 2008 *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.

The study compared four intervention strategies in children who have unusual difficulty understanding and using language, and found that all four methods resulted in significant, long-term improvements in the children's language abilities. The aim of the study was to assess whether children who used commercially available language software program Fast ForWord-Language had greater improvement in language skills than children using other methods. This program was specifically designed to improve auditory processing deficits which may underlie some language impairments. Children who have auditory processing deficits can jumble the order of sounds that are heard in close sequence. Researchers believe that this deficit can interfere with vocabulary and grammar development.

"These results show that any of a number of intensive educational approaches can make a tremendous difference for children whose language and auditory processing skills are lagging," says NIDCD director James F. Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. "Even play with peers seemed to support the improvements the children in this study made."

"We had a very positive outcome," says Dr. Gillam. "Our results tell us that a variety of intensive interventions that we can provide kids will improve auditory processing and language learning."

Save the Date! NIDCD is planning its 20th anniversary symposium to be held in Bethesda, MD, Oct. 23, 2008.

To add your name to our e-mail list, visit www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/inside/

SHHH Presents

Questions and Answers on Hearing Loss

Did you know that...

- One out of ten people in the United States has a hearing loss? (CDC Survey)
- At age 65, one out of three people has a hearing loss?
- Hearing loss ranks with arthritis, high blood pressure, and heart disease as one of the most common physical conditions?
- There are 43 million Americans with disabilities — of those, 28 million have hearing loss?
- It is estimated that 30 school children per 1,000 have hearing loss? (Davis)

Ménière's Disease

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health

NIDCD
 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

INFORMATION RESOURCES

hearing
 balance
 smell
 taste
 voice
 speech
 language

www.nidcd.nih.gov

Silence isn't always Golden.

Infants and young children with hearing problems can have difficulty developing speech and language.

Some babies are born with hearing problems. Other children are born with normal hearing and begin to have hearing problems as they grow older.

You can help your child's doctor to decide if your child's hearing needs to be tested. Hearing problems can be temporary or permanent. Hearing problems can happen because of ear infections, injuries, or diseases.

Read the Hearing Checklist. Find your child's age. Check yes or no for every item. After you complete the checklist, show it to your child's doctor. Ask the

**If your child doesn't hear well or speak clearly, take action...
 ...actions speak louder than words**

Healthy Hearing 2010
 Working together to meet the objectives of Healthy People 2010

- What is Healthy People 2010?
- What is Healthy Hearing?
- How Can I Participate?
- What Are My Tools?
- Who is Involved?

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National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

NIDCD

Supporting Human Communication Research

Health Information

Research Funding and Programs

News and Events

Hearing Matters!

HAVE WISE EARS! FOR LIFE

WISE EARS! At Work!

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Here are the facts:

- ✓ Noise-induced hearing loss is the most common workplace disorder and the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury.
- ✓ Thirty million workers are at risk for noise-induced hearing loss and 10 million Americans already have it.
- ✓ Forty-four percent of carpenters and 48% of plumbers report having a hearing loss.
- ✓ By age 25, the average carpenter has the same hearing as a 50-year-old person who does not work around hazardous noise.

DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

Noise-induced hearing loss is 100 percent preventable, but once you have hearing loss, you'll have it for life. Exposure to harmful sounds causes damage to the sensitive structures of the inner ear. These structures can be injured instantly from an intense brief impulse, such as the explosion of a firecracker, or gradually from continuous exposure to noise, such as in a woodworking shop.

How loud is too loud?

Are you in an area where you have to raise your voice to talk with someone who is an arm's length away? Are your ears ringing or do sounds seem dull or flat after leaving a noisy place? If so, then you are probably exposed to hazardous noise. The degree of a hearing hazard is related to both the level of the noise and the duration of the exposure. Sound is measured in decibels (dB). Prolonged (long or repeated) exposure to noise above 85dB can cause hearing loss. A normal conversation takes place at about 60dB. A hand drill measures 98dB, a spray painter 105dB,



Too loud

Too close

Too long



QUIET NORMAL LOUD TOO LOUD

MATCH THE OWL TO THE SOUND OR NOISE

www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/wise/index.htm

QUIET NORMAL LOUD TOO LOUD

WISE EARS!™

A national coalition of government agencies, public organizations, businesses, industries and unions to prevent noise-induced hearing loss. For more information visit: www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/wise/index.htm. Sponsored by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIH, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CDC.