

Quarterly Newsletter FALL 2021

# North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

## Save The Date: 2022 Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference

The 21st Annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 13-15, 2022.

The goal of the annual EHDI Conference is to enhance the implementation of comprehensive state-based Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs. After participating in the conference, participants will be better able to:

Identify and promote knowledge and awareness of successful strategies for implementing comprehensive state-based EHDI programs that include screening, audiologic diagnostic evaluation, early intervention, medical home, reporting, tracking, surveillance, loss to follow-up issues, data integration, and other related surveillance components.

Interpret and describe current research and research methods related to EHDI.

Examine cultural competence of providers and assess their ability to work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, their families, and communities.

Discuss the importance of enhancing and creating new and ongoing working relationships among federal agencies, non-profit organizations, state health departments and educational agencies, advocacy groups, families, and professionals. General Information on the "Goal of The EHDI Annual Conference", <https://www.ehdiconference.org/>



Every year, the EHDI conference brings together multiple attendees from every state and territory. The EHDI conference is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge by immersing yourself in an environment where a variety of professionals and families come together in support of an "EHDI system of care". Whether you are a professional, a parent or an individual who is Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, the EHDI conference is something you should experience.

The ND EHDI Program is looking for a parent/family leader to attend the Annual EHDI Conference. If you are interested attending the conference as a parent/family leader you can contact the ND EHDI program staff at [misu.ndehdi@minotstateu.edu](mailto:misu.ndehdi@minotstateu.edu)



## North Dakota has trained specialists to help families with infant and toddlers diagnosed with a hearing loss

One of the services provided by the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hearing is the Parent-Infant Program for deaf and hard of hearing children, birth to five, and their families. It is a free statewide program and is family centered. They have uniquely trained professionals to address the distinctive impact of hearing loss in children. The program provides information to families and professionals statewide. Home visits are offered to families to provide unbiased information about hearing loss, auditory skills development and amplification, communication choices and technology options, development of sign language skills, networking with professionals, other parents, and deaf individuals.

Along with home visits PIP specialists consult in daycares and preschool settings. They are also available to participate in Individualized Family Service Plan meetings. On the parent-infant program team includes teachers of the deaf, parent-infant specialists, early childhood special educators, interpreter/sign language instructor and consulting audiologist.



Nicole Swartwout  
New Coordinator of  
Parent-Infant Program

The new coordinator of this program is Nicole Swartwout, who has been working as an Early Childhood Special Educator and a Teacher of the Deaf for 21 years. She received her undergrad in Deaf and Elementary Education from Minot State University and her Masters in Deaf Education and Early

Childhood Special Education from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She has worked for a Special Education Coop in Minnesota, overseas with military families in Germany and in Washington DC at a private school for children with reduced hearing before returning to her hometown of Minot, North Dakota. She began working for the North Dakota School for the Deaf. This will be her 15th year on the Parent-Infant/School-Age Outreach team.

The Parent-Infant Program encourages parents to meet other families of children with differentiated hearing. Every year, they co-sponsor with North Dakota Hands & Voices a "Party with the Pumpkins" in each region. It is a Deaf Awareness Week activity which is September 19-25th this year. Because of the pumpkin season, however, scheduled dates continue through October.



Minot Berry Acres Pumpkins	Sunday, September 26, 2021	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Nicole.Swartwout@k12.nd.us (701) 739-9509
Fargo Lil' Bitz Pumpkin Patch	Sunday, September 26, 2021	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Ashley Martin@k12.nd.us (701) 239-7375
Williston Cottonwood Forest	Monday, September 27, 2021	4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Nicole.Swartwout@k12.nd.us (701) 739-9509
East Grand Forks Patch on the Point	Thursday, September 30, 2021	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Denise.Marback@k12.nd.us (701) 351-5796
Bismarck Papa's Pumpkin Patch	Saturday, October 2, 2021	12 noon to 2 p.m.	Tami.Iszler@k12.nd.us (701) 328-3987
Dickinson Hope Christian Academy	Saturday October 9, 2021	10 a.m. to 12 noon MT 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. CT	Lana.Zimbelman@k12.nd.us (701) 215-1718



# NORTH DAKOTA FAST FACTS 2020

North Dakota Department of Health  
Division of Vital Records

**Live births:**  
**10,050**

**Day most  
births  
occurred:**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**(46 births)**

**Day fewest  
births  
occurred:**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**(11 births)**

Information from <https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/Vital/ff2020.pdf>

# MOST POPULAR BABY NAMES 2020

**Boys**

**Oliver**

**Liam**

**Hudson**

**Girls**

**Olivia**

**Amelia**

**Ava**

**NORTH DAKOTA**



**HANDS &  
VOICES™**

## North Dakota Hands & Voices

was so excited to finally host in-person events again this summer! We started with zoo events across the state. The first was held at the Roosevelt Zoo in Minot, ND, and then at the Dakota Zoo in Bismarck, ND. We were so excited to see families together again enjoying the weather. The kids had Zoo Passports to find animals specific to each zoo and activity bags were created to bring the fun home. We were also all able to share lunch together.

We had an event planned in Fargo, but the weather had different plans. Luckily, we were able to send care packages with tickets, activity bags, and some information about our

organization to those families so they can enjoy the zoo another day.

Next, we plan to celebrate the fall with events at pumpkin patches across the state. We will be teaming up with our friends at the North Dakota School for the Deaf School Age Outreach and Parent-Infant Program to host these events. Please be on the lookout for an event in your area coming soon. North Dakota Hands & Voices - About ([ndhandsandvoices.org](http://ndhandsandvoices.org))



*Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him,  
and to let him know that you trust him. – Booker T. Washington*

# From the Desk of Family Voices of North Dakota

Submitted by: Donene Feist, Family Voices of North Dakota Executive Director

The summer sure did fly by quickly. Hope you all are adjusting to Back to School and all that it entails. Family Voices of North Dakota has again started their Extended Learning Calls. As a reminder about our Extended Learning Calls, we host these calls on weeknights at 8 pm. They are held in the evening to assure families can attend. These calls are for families and providers to learn about new programs and expand their skills. If any provider, would like to be a guest speaker, to get information out to a larger group, let us know. The Extended Learning Calls will be recorded and posted on our website at [www.fvnd.org](http://www.fvnd.org)

We announce these workshops via our Family Voices of North Dakota listserv, and our e-newsletter which is distributed weekly on Mondays. If you are a family member or provider and would like to receive our e-newsletter and listserv, you can be added to the listserv to receive this information by emailing [donene@fvnd.org](mailto:donene@fvnd.org); or you can call the Family Voices of ND office at 888-522-9654.

Our first Extended Learning call will be on September 23rd at 8 pm. Monica Haugen will be joining us to discuss the new 1915i through Medicaid. You can join us by registering at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=y8xbvaeab&oeidk=a07eiikt7c0cad94023>

Through the EHDI project, there will be 8 calls for the upcoming season. If you would like information on these calls, do let us know by contacting [donene@fvnd.org](mailto:donene@fvnd.org)

Additionally, we will be planning online virtual Care Coordination Training and our CareGiver Café training which helps families plan for transition. These will be announced through our listserv and also on our Family Voices of ND Facebook page.

Head on over and give us a like: <https://www.facebook.com/FVND1>

Sadly, we are uncertain about Trunk or Treat events due to Covid and the rising numbers. With the exception of Grand Forks. Watch for further announcements.

If you are a family member and need additional support, do call us at Family Voices of North Dakota. We are here to help. Family Voices of ND is celebrating its 20th Anniversary as a nonprofit. Family Support is a vital component as families adjust to a new diagnosis and changing times. Supporting families and connecting them to family organizations assures that families get resources and services in ways that are respectful, relevant, and honor their unique choices and perspectives so that they can make informed decisions to achieve the best possible outcomes for their children and youth. It takes us all! Hoping you all have a great fall.

Family Voices of North Dakota  
Executive Director Donene Feist  
Call us at 888-522-9654. Email us at [fvnd@drtel.net](mailto:fvnd@drtel.net).  
Send us a fax to 1-701-493-2635. Send us a letter to:  
FVND. PO Box 163. Edgeley ND 58433.

**FAMILY VOICES**  
OF NORTH DAKOTA®  
*Navigating Crossroads to Hope*





**Learn the Signs. Act Early** is a program out of the CDC that helps families, caregivers, and medical providers monitor developmental milestones ages birth to 5. The program aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and supports they need.

## Why Should You Monitor?

Monitoring your child's developmental milestones allows you to celebrate their successes as well as recognize when they may have fallen behind. The Learn the Signs. Act Early materials follows milestones on how your child learns, speaks, acts, and moves. The materials also teach and empower parents to speak up when there is a concern and help find resources to get your child back on track. As a parent, you know your child best. If your child is not meeting the milestones for his or her age, or if you think there could be a problem with the way your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves talk to your child's doctor and share your concerns. Do not wait. Acting early can make a real difference!

Each state has a dedicated Act Early Ambassador, appointed by the CDC. Your state ambassador can help you connect to the materials and resources in your area. North Dakota's state ambassador, Hilory Liccini, and co-project lead Vanessa Rovig, have been working with Head Start programs across the state to deliver the Learn the Signs. Act Early developmental monitoring materials to families across North Dakota. Some of the materials included:

[CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early. App](#)

[Milestone Checklist](#)

[Children's Books](#)

[How to Talk with the Doctor Tip Sheet](#)

[Milestone Brochure](#)

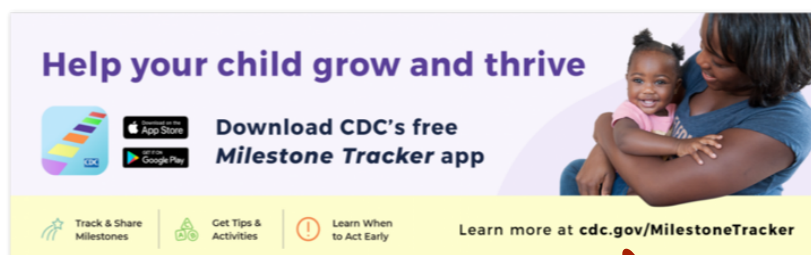
If you would like more information on these materials, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html> or contact the North Dakota State Ambassador:

## Hilory Liccini

Associate Director, NDCPD  
ND Act Early Ambassador  
701 858 3008

[Hilory.Liccini@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:Hilory.Liccini@MinotStateU.edu)





## Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Resources, Upcoming Events, and Webinars

### Save the date! 21st Annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference

Mar. 13-15, 2022

Cincinnati, Ohio

[www.ehdimmeeting.org](http://www.ehdimmeeting.org)



### CMV Public Health & Policy Conference

The 2020 CMV Public Health and Policy Conference will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Learn more at

<https://www.facebook.com/CMVPublicHealthandPolicyConference/>



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention



**Visit Hands and Voices Family Leadership** in language and learning cooperative (FL3) to explore past webinars and trainings on topics about Family Leadership, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adult Involvement, Family-to-Family Support, and Language, Literacy and Social Development.



<https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/resources/trainings-webinars.html>

### Free Material About Hearing Loss in Children

CDC has FREE brochures, posters, fact sheets, and more for parents, health care providers, and public health professionals. You can view, download, and print the materials at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/freematerials.html>

**Chime in!** Check out the ND EHD website at [www.ndcpd.org/ehdi](http://www.ndcpd.org/ehdi) for information or



to meet the staff. If you have questions, find broken links or typos, or have suggestions, please let us know.

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[@NDEHDI\\_NDCPD](https://twitter.com/NDEHDI_NDCPD)

**Hospitals: do you need more brochures? Contact Vicki**  
by emailing [vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:vickie.brabandt@MinotStateU.edu)

