

North Dakota EHD I

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Quarterly Newsletter WINTER 2023

On behalf of the North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Staff, we want to take a moment to let you know how thankful we are to have you as part of our North Dakota Hearing Health community. We are grateful for your support as we maximize our potential through our vital and unique services. We wish you and your family the best this Holiday Season and throughout 2024!

Happy Holidays
from

Jerusha, Sue, Tory, Christine, and Shelby

National EHD I Conference 2024

It is almost time to start preparing for the 23rd annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHD I) conference held March 17-19, 2024, in Denver, CO. The conference is organized by the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management at Utah State University, Hands & Voices, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Health Resources and Services Administration. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone with a stake in hearing health. The annual EHD I conference provides an opportunity to go beyond our focus and understand the breadth of what hearing health is as a system of care. You will have the chance to hear how other states' EHD I systems are progressing, what is happening federally, and how the work you do affects families and individuals. The annual EHD I conferences are not only educational but also inspirational experiences! We hope you make every effort to attend the conference! If you have questions, visit the conference website at <https://ehdiconference.org/>, or you may contact Jerusha Olthoff, MSM, ND EHD I Program Director, at 1-800-233-1737. We hope to see you there!

New ND EHD I Staff



We are thrilled to announce that Shelby Clark, MS, CCC-SLP, has joined the ND EDHI team. Her expertise will be incredibly valuable in assisting with the Language Acquisition grant. Shelby has been working at NDCPD Infant Development since 2019 as an Early Intervention Speech Language Pathologist.

Shelby will continue to split her time between EHD I and infant development. We are excited to welcome her to our group.

Update on the ND EHD I Language Acquisition focus group

We are excited to report that our Language Acquisition focus group, supported by HRSA, had an incredible start. Our mission is to help children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) achieve developmental milestones, including language acquisition, by age three. Research has shown that early intervention can significantly improve outcomes for children with hearing loss. Language development is a critical component of a child's overall growth and success, and our focus group can make a real difference in the lives of these children. By working together with families, healthcare providers, and educators, we hope to create a more cohesive and collaborative approach to language acquisition that addresses the unique needs of each child. We are excited to collaborate with our partners to achieve our goals. We look forward to sharing our progress with you as we continue this important journey!

Shelby Clark, MS, CCC-SLP - Early Intervention Speech Language Pathologist and ND EDHI Staff

Jerusha Olthoff, MSM - ND EHD I Program Director

Christine Brigden, LBSW - ND EHD I Follow-up Coordinator

"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment." – Wess Stafford

Please share with families and caregivers for them to learn more about the next steps in the early hearing detection and intervention processes.



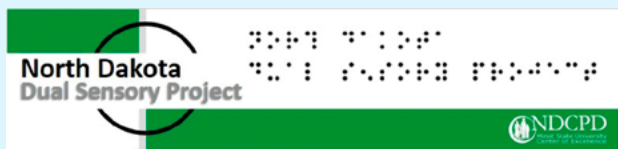
All babies should be screened by 1 month of age, preferably before leaving the hospital

If after 2 screenings the baby does not pass, a medical and hearing evaluation is needed before 3 months

Once hearing loss is detected, services and intervention should be started by 6 months of age

This 1-3-6 guideline was developed to give the baby the best possible time frame to be screened, diagnosed, treatment, and services begun. The earlier a baby is determined to have a hearing loss and begins receiving services, the more likely that speech, language, and social skills will reach their full potential.

What is the North Dakota Dual Sensory Project?



The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) recently responded to a notice inviting applications for the *2023 OSEP Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities - State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for Children who are Deaf-Blind and National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children who are Deaf-Blind*.

NDCPD has been approved for funding for the next 5-year grant cycle to coordinate the **North Dakota Dual Sensory Project**. The new 5-year grant cycle will run from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2028.

The North Dakota Dual Sensory Project is a state and federally funded technical assistance and training program designed to enhance the provision of services for children and youth, birth through age 21, with combined vision and hearing loss. The mission of the project is to help state educational agencies, local educational agencies, Part C agencies, early intervention service providers, teachers, service providers, and families address the educational, related services, transitional, and early intervention needs of children and youth who are deafblind.

Technical assistance (TA) includes free consultation, training, and support to families and educators of children and youth who are deafblind. The North Dakota Dual Sensory Project offers three levels (universal, targeted, and intensive) of technical assistance through distance and face-to-face formats based on the specific needs of the recipient(s).

Interested in learning more about the ND Dual Sensory Project? Email Project Director, Lacey Long, at lacey.long@minotstateu.edu.

North Dakota Fast Facts 2022



To view the entire document, visit [here](#)

"I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!" – David Vitter



North Dakota School for the Deaf/ Resource Center Parent-Infant Program and School Age Outreach Specialists

Be Deaf Aware during the holidays

Based on an article taken from National Deaf Center on Post Secondary Outcomes
The holidays can be frustrating and lonely for individuals with hearing differences. Here are some quick tips to help you include a deaf guest in your holiday celebrations.

If you are not sure what you can do, reach out to the deaf person directly and ask questions, such as “How do you prefer to communicate?” or “What can I do differently to better communicate?” Here are some other suggestions to also consider...

Involve them

Even if a Deaf individual communicates with sign language, there are many ways to communicate, even if you don't sign. Use a visual cue or tap the deaf person gently to get their attention, and interact with them directly. Use gestures and facial expressions to convey meaning. Even downloading a phone app that transcribes speech could be helpful, although imperfect. Have a notepad and pen or small whiteboard available to write down questions or requests. Use text messaging to communicate.



Clipart Library



CoolCLIPS.com

.... Eyeball the environment

Deaf people rely on what they can see to understand conversation and other context. Ensure the space for your gathering is well-lit and does not have a lot of visual barriers. This will not only foster communication, but reduce eye-strain.

Remove large centerpieces or table decorations that might make it hard to see other guests. If people are sitting in front of windows, close the curtains to avoid too much backlighting. Bring in extra lamps to brighten up a dark space.

Also, try to keep background noise to a minimum as possible. Turn down background music or turn off the television if no one is watching it.

Turn on the captions

Be mindful to include deaf guests. If you're watching the big game or a holiday parade as part of your celebrations. Turn on captioning before guests arrive to avoid awkwardly fumbling through your television's settings in front of everyone.



Shutterstock.com

Hire a professional

Hire an interpreter or use a qualified **speech-to-text service**. If you're considering a professional service, be sure to include the deaf person in the choice. Each deaf person has their own strengths and preferences. What works for one may not work for another.

If cost is an issue, do some research. There may be pro-bono services available. See if there's an ASL interpreter program in your area whose students may be willing to help out. Consider splitting the cost with other guests.

Asign

Play deaf-friendly games

Avoid any games or group activities that are heavily dependent on oral cues. Instead, choose deaf-friendly games that rely more on visual cues or physical competition.



Flaticon

For more information, contact Nicole Swartwout at (701) 857-8681 or nicole.swartwout@k12.nd.us

“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.” – Verna Myers

North Dakota Hands & Voices Loaner Bank

Did your student's personal equipment break down? Were earmolds denied? Is your child awaiting cochlear implant candidacy determination? Are insurance requirements delaying access to devices? Interested in learning basic ASL? Consider the North Dakota Hands & Voices Loaner Bank for any equipment needs! Also available: Signing Time resources, options to aid in equipment retention, Roger transmitters and receivers. Resources are available to any children of North Dakota. Hearing aid or speech processor requests are to be made through the managing Audiologist so it can be appropriately programmed before provided to the child. Requests for any other resources can be made directly by parents, case managers, TOD/HHs, SLPs.

We are always looking to add equipment to our stock! Please consider donating equipment or other related items you may no longer need. Newer devices will be thoroughly cleaned and refurbished to use for loans. Older equipment is recycled at Starkey. We are provided a small stipend for any devices that can be used for spare parts. This money is pooled into the Hands & Voices account at Starkey and used to fund earmolds.

Contact us any time!

Loaner Bank Device Information

The ND Hands & Voices Loaner Bank is proud to offer a variety of new and refurbished devices:

- Phonak Quest, Venture, Belong, Marvel and Paradise platforms; available in Audeo, Bolero, Naida and Sky models
 - ▶ FM or tamperproof battery doors available by request
 - ▶ RIC, slim tube, standard earhook options available
- ReSound Linx2, Linx3D, Linx4 and Enzo hearing aids in the 61, 67, 77, 88 and 98 models
 - ▶ RIC, slim tube and standard earhook options available
- Oticon Safari P 600 and Opn 3 PowerPlus hearing aids
- Starkey Z Series power hearing aids
- Cochlear N5, N7, Kanso speech processors, coils, cables, batteries and chargers
- Advanced Bionics Naida Q70 speech processors, coils, cables, batteries and chargers
- Phonak Inspiro and Pen transmitters, Phonak universal receivers, Roger X receivers
- Phonak PartnerMic, ComPilot and TV streamers; ReSound TV Streamers
- Baby Signing Time DVDs, flashcards, books, puppets, etc.

If your patient could benefit from signing materials or a loaner device while awaiting insurance authorization, repair, cochlear implant candidacy evaluation or other reason, please contact Tricia Nechodom with the H&V Loaner Bank to request a device. The Loaner Request Form must be completed and devices will be sent out to the programming Audiologist as soon as possible. Pediatric care kits and batteries are available upon request. Earmolds can be funded through Starkey upon request.

ND Hands & Voices Loaner Bank

Attn: Tricia Nechodom, AuD

Medical Office Building

2305 37th Avenue, Suite 502

Minot, ND 58701

Fax: 701.418.7530

Email: TriciaNechodom@TrinityHealth.org

We are always looking for donations to bolster our stock. Please consider sending us any older equipment you may no longer use or need!

(For North Dakota children 18 and under only)

This program is not to be used to provide permanent hearing aid(s), speech processors, FM system or signing materials. There are other resources available for persons with demonstrated financial need. Please contact the Loaner Bank for additional information on insurance coverage, local funding opportunities and other requests.

*"Treat everyone with politeness and kindness, not because they are nice, but because you are."
– Roy T. Bennett,*



HANDS & VOICES™

Loaner Bank Request Form

(For North Dakota children 18 and under only)

This program is not to be used to provide permanent hearing aid(s). There are other resources available for persons with demonstrated financial need. Please contact your local audiologist for further information for those programs.

Audiologist Requesting: _____ Date: _____

Audiologist's Clinic or School name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name: _____ Sex _____ Age _____ DOB: __/__/__

Address: _____

City: _____ State: **ND** Zip Code: _____

Parent's name(s): _____

Parent E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Request for hearing aid(s) or speech processor(s): Right _____ Left _____ Both _____

Other: _____

Expected Loaner length: _____ months

Person responsible for & return: _____
(Signature required)

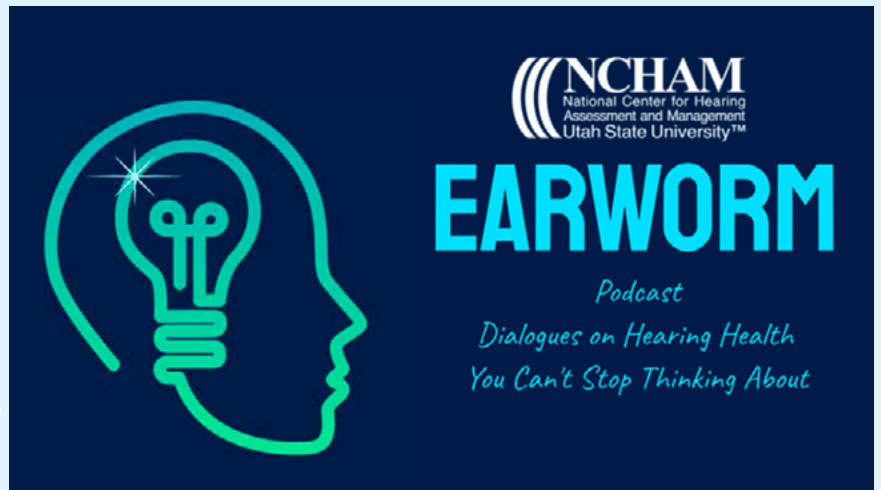
(Printed name)

Return to:
ND Hands & Voices Loaner Bank
Attn: Tricia Nechodom, AuD
2305 37th Avenue SW, Suite 502
Minot, ND 58701
Fax: 701.418.7530

(Please remember to make copies of all paperwork before sending the originals)

LISTEN TO THE EARWORM PODCAST!

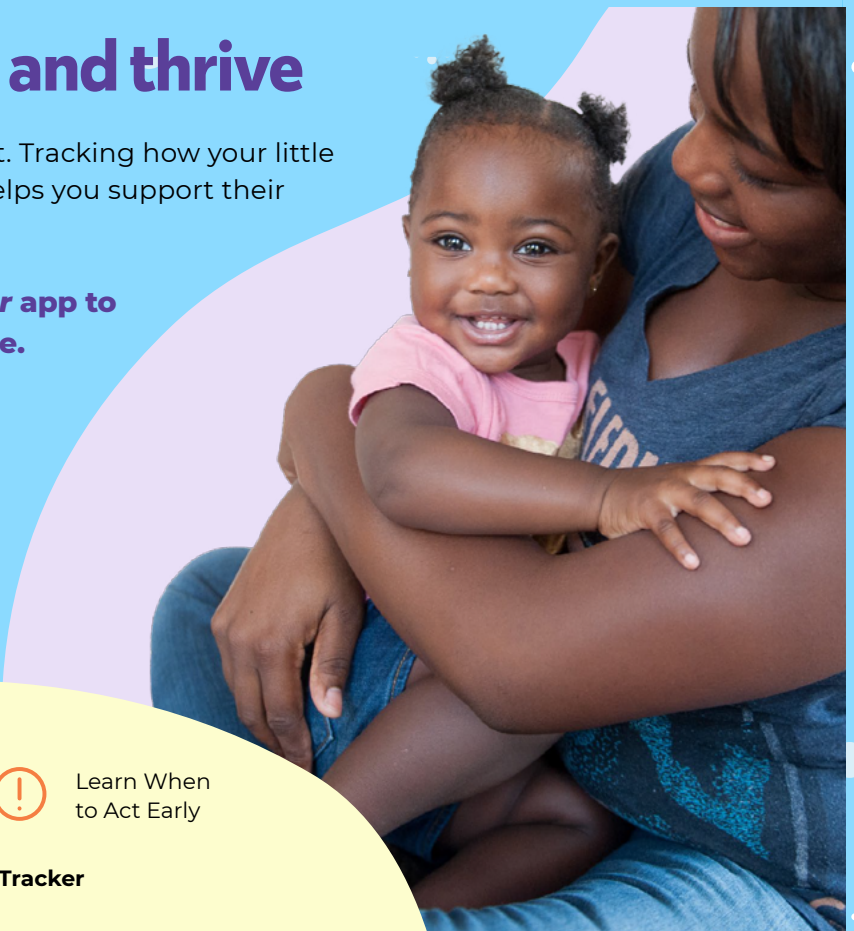
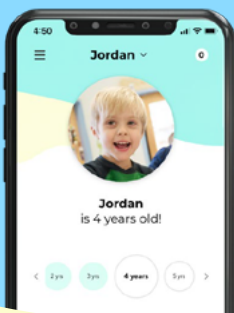
EarWorm Podcast: "Dialogues on hearing health you can't stop thinking about!" Join us for season 1 of NCHAM's new podcast, hosted by Dr. William Eiserman, PhD. The EarWorm podcast features conversations with a wide array of professionals, parents, and other family members whose experiences, ideas, curiosities, and activities are committed to ensuring that all children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can thrive. Available for streaming anywhere you listen to podcasts, as well as on earwormpodcast.org.



Help your child grow and thrive

Your child's early years are so very important. Tracking how your little one plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves helps you support their development.

Download CDC's free *Milestone Tracker* app to find fun and easy activities for each age.



Track & Share Milestones



Get Tips & Activities

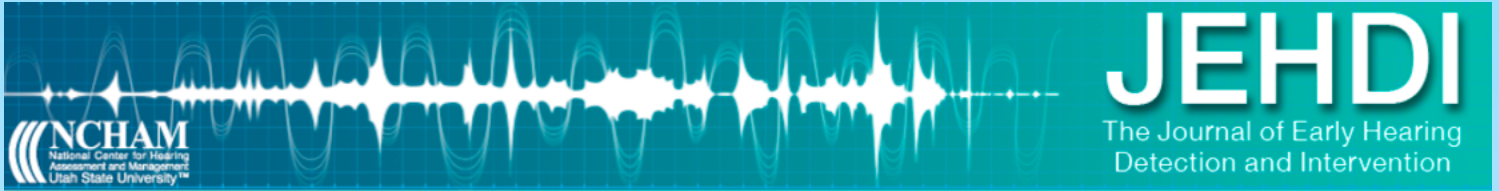


Learn When to Act Early

Learn more at cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker

"Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers." – Kahlil Gibran

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



Don't miss out on the latest edition of JEHDI - it's a must-read! Click on the link below to get your hands on it now.
[Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention | Journals | Utah State University \(usu.edu\)](https://journals.utahstate.edu/jehdi/)



www.runsignup.com/handsvoicesnewyear5k
Run. Walk. Bike. Hike. Roll. Crawl. Whatever your mode, join us to say "Later Gator" to 2023 so we can "Croc On" in 2024.! All virtual 5K registrants will receive a race t-shirt, and the first 400 registrants will receive a custom finisher's medal. Note: Your shirt will ship in December prior to the event.



We are excited to announce that the 2024 NDCPD Collaboration of Change webinar series is almost here! This is a unique opportunity to learn from industry experts and through leaders in the field. The webinars will occur every Thursday from February 8th to March 21st, 2024, at noon CST. Registration will be opening soon at ndcpd.org.

During the series, you will gain valuable insights into the latest trends, applied behavioral analysis, customized employment for people with disabilities, and best practices. We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us for this exciting event. Contact hours are available for nurses and social workers. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and grow. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you there.



In February 2024, the Minot State University ECHO project will launch an ECHO series on transitioning from pediatric to adult healthcare. Get ready to be inspired! Find out more at <https://ndcpd.org/echo/>.

"Why be a star when you can make a constellation?" – Mariam Kaba

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



Make plans to join the North Dakota EHD Stakeholders in Denver!
23rd Annual Conference: March 17-19, 2024
Denver, CO
For more information, visit the [EHD Annual Conference \(ehdconference.org\)](https://ehdconference.org)



Webinar: Unilateral Is Not Uniform

When: February 8, 2024, | 10:00 am - 11:00 am MDT
Register at https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eLQh3rjWFOgu6JU

Webinar: Assuming Competence: What to do when you don't know what to do!

https://www.infanthearing.org/video_player/index.php?video=49



CI2024 Vancouver At a Glance

Conference Dates

Wednesday, July 10 - Saturday, July 13, 2024

Registration Opens

January 16, 2024

(Discounts for Early Registration and Members)

For more information, visit [CI2024 Vancouver Meeting - Cochlear Implants Children & Adults](#)

Visit Hands and Voices Family Leadership in language and learning cooperative (FL3) to explore past webinars and training on 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>



"When we listen and celebrate what is both common and different, we become wiser, more inclusive, and better as an organization." – Pat Wadors

Can Your Baby Hear?



North Dakota Early Hearing
Detection and Intervention
www.ndcpd.org/ehdi
1-800-233-1737

HOSPITALS: Do you need more brochures?

Please email Vickie.Brabandt@MinotStateU.edu

ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

 www.facebook.com/NDEHDI

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



CHIME IN!

Check out the ND EHQDI website at www.ndcpd.org/ndehdi for information or meet the staff. Also, if you have questions, find broken links or typos, or have suggestions, please let us know.

We hope you will find the newsletter provides a broad picture of hearing healthcare in North Dakota. Through collaborative efforts, streamlined processes and consistent communication, ND can assure a strong system of hearing health care for every child birthed and/or residing in North Dakota.

We look forward to being a resource for quality improvement and working with you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

ND EHQDI Program Coordinator

Joyal Meyer, MSN, RN

Director, ND Newborn Screening

North Dakota Health and Human Services

Special Health Services Unit

600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325

Bismarck ND 58505-0250

Phone: 701-328-4534 Fax: 701-328-1645

Email: jbmeyer@nd.gov

ND EHQDI Program Director

Jerusha Olthoff, MSM

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Minot State University, Memorial Hall

500 University Ave. West. Minot, ND 58707

Phone: 701-858-4360 Fax: 701-858-3483

Website: <https://ndcpd.org/ndehdi/>

Email: jerusha.olthoff@minotstateu.edu

ND EHQDI Follow-up/Data Coordinator

Sue Routledge

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Phone: 701-858-3006

Email: sue.routledge@minotstateu.edu

Family Support Specialist

Tory Allen

ND EHQDI Follow-up Family Support Specialist

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Phone: 1-800-233-1737

Email: tory.allen@ndus.edu

ND EHQDI Follow Coordinator

Christine Brigden, LBSW

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Phone: 701-858-3356

Email: christine.brigden@minotstateu.edu



North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

