Involving Extended Family in the Hearing Journey: Healthy Conversations and Communication Opportunities
Where is this?
Overview:

- Why involve the grandparents?
- Who helps get them involved?
- How do we do it?
- Resources
Why Involve Grandparents

Language Opportunities

Grandparents need support too!

Research shows it’s good!

Long term support for both parents and grandchild

Encourages Aunts and Uncles to get on board too.
Research has shown that children with more opportunities for communicating with parents, siblings, peers, and other adults develop better language skills.
Why Involve Grandparents

- Grandparents need support too!
- Long term support for both parents and grandchild
- Research shows it's good!
- Encourages Aunts and Uncles to get on board too.
Considerations:

- Cultural expectations for grandparents
- Uninterested grandparents
- Health situations
- Proximity to grandchild
Level of Involvement by Grandparents

- School/Classroom or special events: 56%
- Audiology/medical appointments: 52%
- Speech Therapy sessions
- Sign classes
- EI home visits
- Attended workshops

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJXJXQB
Audiologists:

- You have the first point of contact
- You can encourage the parents to bring grandparents
- More than just an audiogram!
- Remind and Repeat
Home Visits are Crucial!

A little bit of education can go a long way!

Could you incorporate a monthly home visit with extended family?

How can you add this to an IFSP?
Questions a Deaf Educator could ask:

- “Has your relationship with your family changed since your child’s diagnosis?”
- “What conversations have you had recently with your family?”
- “Perhaps you might like me to meet your parents sometime…”
- “Could I provide you with some resources to pass on to your parents?”
- “Are your parents likely to babysit your child and how can we help them in accommodating your child?”
If not Home Visits, Workshops?

• Ongoing workshops with regular, structured support
• A school’s role
• Support in the form of deaf mentors
• Time to mingle with other grandparents
Regarding Counselors:

- School Counselors to run grandparent support groups
- Counselor for Families at Medical Facilities
- Providing insight into family relationships
- Social workers can help connect you
- We could use them a lot more!
Ideas on how to get the grands involved

Practical Ideas

- Discussion, discussion, discussion
- Quick cards adapted for your purposes
- Buy ASL DVDs for your parents to watch with your children
- Inviting them to everything you are going to

Resources/Internet tips

- [http://padlet.com/kherb/Padhresources](http://padlet.com/kherb/Padhresources)
- [http://www.agbell.org/Quick_Cards_to_Give_to_Teachers](http://www.agbell.org/Quick_Cards_to_Give_to_Teachers)
- [http://deafnation.com/](http://deafnation.com/)
Jedediah Brown IEP Quick Reference Card

Hello! I have a hearing loss you might like to learn more about. Here are a couple of things that may be helpful:

- Minimize background noises including: multiple people talking at once, noisy A/C or heater, other conversations nearby; Rule of thumb: Only one noise at a time.
- When you need to gain my attention, tap me on the shoulder, say my name, or wave your arm. Wait until I make eye contact before speaking to me.
- If we watch any videos, it is important that captions be turned on.
- Don’t be upset if I ask you to repeat something—I want to ensure I heard you correctly.
- It is important that people speak clearly and I’m able to see their faces. Please try not to cover your mouth when speaking, or talk with your back towards the class.
- Give me visual stimulation ie. books with pictures; facial expression; tactile activities; any sign language you know; as you’re able, use multiple senses to explain activities; Rule of thumb: Show and tell
- If you have any questions, my Mom is always willing to talk

This is not an official IEP

http://www.agbell.org/Quick_Cards_to_Give_to_Teachers/
Deaf Hard of Hearing Resources

FIRST STEPS

HOW TO ENROLL IN EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention in PA
Who should families contact to see if their child is eligible for Early Intervention?
A first step for any family with a concern about their child's development is to call CONNECT Services (toll free: 1-800-692-7288) or their local Early Intervention Program. The Early Intervention Program will determine if the child is eligible for Early Intervention.

HOW TO APPLY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Medical Assistance
Does your baby need hearing technology? Children with hearing loss who live in Pennsylvania can apply for Medical Assistance regardless of household income.

ENROLL IN OUR STATE FAMILY SUPPORT AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

Hands & Voices GBVS of PA
PA support program for families of infants and toddlers with hearing concerns. Call us today if you need help on this journey or if you just want to talk to another parent who has a child with hearing concerns!
717-580-0839
agaspich@pattan.net

UNDERSTANDING AN AUDIOGRAM

What is an audiogram?
If you need more information to help you understand your child's audiogram, this is the site for you!

Understanding Your Child's Audiogram
A webinar by an audiologist (Approximately 1.5 hours)
7/14/15

How we hear
Read this page to learn how we hear sound.

How do we HEAR?
Great video on how hearing happens!

New to Early Intervention?
Theese linke will take you to...
EITA-PA
Involvement Suggestions:

✖ Social media
✖ A communiqué or email blast through school
✖ Sessions specifically related to ASL or Deaf culture
✖ Hearing aid care 101
✖ Grandparent ASL booklet

✖ Partnering with other agencies
✖ School outings/events
✖ “Bring your grandma/pa to school” day
✖ Specific, regular, support groups with counselors
✖ Tips for FaceTime for those who live further away
Grandparents are part of the family, too!
YOUR SUGGESTIONS