

National Early Childhood Assessment Project (NECAP – “kneecap”)
Principal Investigator: Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Ph.D.
Project Coordinator: Allison Sedey, Ph.D.

We are excited to announce a new project awarded to Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano at the University of Colorado-Boulder by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The aims of this project are to:

- a) support interested states in implementing a standard assessment battery for children from birth to 4 years of age who are deaf or hard of hearing
- b) examine the feasibility of creating a national database of early childhood outcomes
- c) assist states in interpreting assessment results and using these results to drive intervention goals and decisions
- d) characterize the service delivery models of early intervention programs throughout the United States
- e) determine early intervention program characteristics that are related to more successful language outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Eligible Participants

All children from 6 months to 4 years of age with permanent hearing loss are eligible to participate. Children whose loss is not permanent (e.g., cases where the hearing loss is solely a result of otitis media) are not eligible. Eligible children may have:

- Unilateral or bilateral loss
- Conductive, sensori-neural, or mixed hearing loss
- Any degree of permanent hearing loss from mild to profound
- Multiple disabilities or hearing loss only
- English or Spanish as the language of the home

Cost and Services Rendered

The cost for this service will be \$50 per child per assessment packet. The fee for the assessment includes the following services:

- Scoring of all questionnaires
- A written report sent to the interventionist, family, and/or program detailing the results of the testing
- A profile sheet based on the results of the Minnesota Child Development Inventory graphically displaying the child's areas of strengths and weaknesses relative to their chronological age
- A summary sheet detailing the raw scores and age scores obtained on the MacArthur Communicative Inventory
- A comparison of the child's scores to both hearing children and children with hearing loss
- An annual accountability report summarizing the language and developmental outcomes of children within the state. This information can be disaggregated based on key demographic characteristics (e.g., presence of additional disabilities, degree of hearing loss, etc.) on request.

- Participation in the establishment of a national database to track outcomes for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Benefits of Participation

Individual Child and Family Benefits

- Includes parent input in the assessment process
- Measures children's skills and abilities across a variety of developmental areas
- Allows parents and interventionists to monitor a child's progress over time and identify potential delays at their onset
- Compares a child's language abilities to both children who are hearing and other children with hearing loss
- Provides a data-driven approach to making educational programming decisions
- Assists in the generation of IFSP/IEP goals

Program Benefits

- Provides statewide and program-specific accountability data on an annual basis
- Allows programs to examine outcomes across different subgroups of children
- Informs professional personnel preparation needs
- Includes access to normative test data on children who are deaf or hard or hearing
- Results in networking with program directors and EHDI personnel in other states
- Gives states an opportunity to contribute to a national database which will allow us to characterize the language strengths and weaknesses of children with hearing loss and identify factors that are predictive of more successful language outcomes

If you have questions or are interested in becoming involved in this project, please contact:

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