

What are the benefits of this research?

With your permission, we can share the results of your child's testing with you and school professionals. The input on your child's performance may help you in educational planning. And your family's participation in this research project may help us better meet the needs of children with hearing loss on a national basis.

What are the Outcomes of Children with Hearing Loss study?

Researchers at the Universities of Iowa, Kansas and North Carolina and Boys Town National Research Hospital (in Nebraska) are working together to understand the successes and needs of children with mild-to-severe hearing loss and their families.

Infants and children younger than 7 years of age who have hearing loss in the mild to severe range and children with normal hearing are needed for this project.

Outcomes of Children with Hearing Loss



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Child Language Research Center
119 WJSHC Rm 3—500009415
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Central Mail Services
The University of Iowa
2222 Old Hwy 218 S
Iowa City IA 52246-9905



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Background

Thanks to newborn hearing screening, hearing loss now can be identified very early in life. Early detection can prevent or reduce delays in children's speech and language development. More research is needed to determine if this goal is being achieved for the majority of infants with hearing loss. In addition, since not all newborns are screened, some cases of hearing loss are undetected. This is particularly true for children with mild hearing loss. Research is needed to better understand the unique needs of these children.



Few studies have explored the needs of children who use hearing aids and have mild-to-severe degrees of hearing loss. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) recognized the need to fill this gap so that interventions for these children can be strengthened. Our study responds to this need by examining the outcomes of a large group of children with hearing loss.

Dr. Bruce Tomblin of the University of Iowa and Dr. Mary Pat Moeller of Boys Town National Research Hospital will lead the study team. They bring together years of experience in research with children who have hearing loss and in the study of outcomes of large groups of children. Team members have expertise in a variety of professions (e.g., Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Child Psychology, Education), allowing us to approach the research from a whole-child perspective. We hope to involve at least 400 children with hearing loss and 150 children with normal hearing in the study.

Purpose of the Study

The goal of the study is to understand factors that lead to success or struggles for these children and their families. Children's performance will be measured across the following important areas:

- Hearing, listening and hearing aid status
- Speech and language development
- Social development
- Academic development

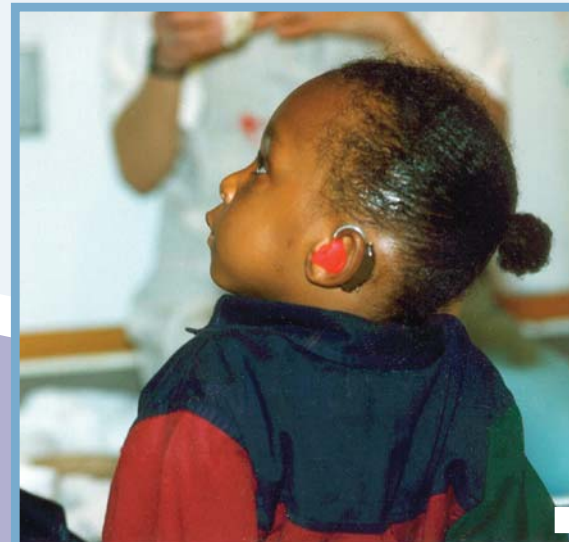
The research team will also measure characteristics of each child's intervention program. In addition, a variety of interviews will be used to understand how interventions and hearing loss affect family members. In order to understand how hearing loss may be affecting children and families we also will collect data on a comparison group of children with normal hearing.

What kind of help is needed?

We seek children with confirmed mild to severe hearing loss ages 6 months through 6 years. Once enrolled in the study, they will be tested at least once a year for three consecutive years. You as parents will be interviewed on the telephone and your child's teachers will be asked to complete surveys in between the testing visits. Test sessions will be held at a speech and hearing center in your state, or in a specially equipped van that will be driven to your community. All testers will strive to make the testing FUN for your child.

You will be paid \$15 per hour for participating. All information specific to you and your child will be held in strict confidence.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the attached postcard and send it to us, or call or email the team in your area.



To contact a research team:

University of Iowa:

Marlea O'Brien

Email: marlea-obrien@uiowa.edu

Phone: (800) 551-5601

Nebraska or Kansas:

Boys Town National Research Hospital

Meredith Spratford

Email: spratfordm@boystown.org

Phone: (402) 452-5054

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill:

Melody Harrison, PhD

Email: melody_harrison@med.unc.edu

Phone: (919) 966-0520



My child and I would like to help. Please send me more information.

PLEASE PRINT

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

From where did you receive this brochure? _____