

Common Purpose
Working together with families and their
deaf babies and toddlers

Wednesday 2nd November 2016

Cate Statham – Educational Audiologist
Hannah Cooper – Clinical Scientist (Audiology)

Neonatal screening

- Research showed benefits of early identification of hearing loss
- Babies are screened within a few days of birth
- Hearing aid fitting can take place within the first month of life



Multidisciplinary project

- Inspired by opportunity presented by neonatal screening
- New technology
- Realisation that many families were unable to maximise opportunity because of the limitations of hearing aids in less than ideal listening environments
 - Noisy family life
 - Car
 - Pushchair
 - Noisy nursery
 - Overhearing



Radio Aids for 0-3 year olds

- Routinely used to overcome the limitations of hearing aids for school age children
- New technology
 - Ear level wireless receivers
 - Integrated receivers



Multidisciplinary team

- Education
 - Teachers of the deaf
 - Educational audiologists
- Health
 - Audiologists
 - ENT
 - Speech and language therapists

Advantages of multidisciplinary working

- Seamless service for families
- Child centred
- Better outcomes for children and families
- Gives families different ways to engage with service
- Picture of how child performs in different environments
- Professionally rewarding
- Grow your professional skills

Project

- Started with a small group of children aged 0-3
- The successes encouraged us to overcome the hurdles and expand the programme
- Each child was given a radio aid to use
- Parents asked to complete a log of the benefits and challenges

Comments from parents

P was able to hear me much better and responded much better when we called her name.

She seemed to be more alert during group time and story time.

She was calmer when I was out of sight as I could tell her where I was. I could talk to her in the buggy and she responded well.

C's speech is clearer th, f, sh, etc. C is leaving the aids in without arguments and sometimes asks for them.

Comments from parents

Amazing! Able to talk to E whilst driving without turning round. Went for walk and she chatted away. Cooking and talking over oven noise.

Big difference in her ability to concentrate and take part in group time.

He was more chatty in the car.

Safety aspects much improved as daddy could tell her to be careful etc and go and find her brother.

If I'm further away at other end of the dining room and N is in the lounge, I can call his name and he looks around immediately

Victoria and Tobiah



Feedback

We use it in the car a lot, also at children's parties or situations where there are lots of other children and it is used all the time he is at nursery.

We used the radio aid when there was a lot of background noise like at the supermarkets, in the car or just generally out and about. It was also used at nursery and when there was a lot of children around.

We used it in busy/noisy environments, generally out of the home such as restaurants, shopping centres, children's parties etc. Since starting school L uses it every day in the classroom as well as still using it in busy/noisy environments such as parties, restaurants etc.

Overall it has been really helpful and the negatives are far outweighed by the positives. I would not be without it now.

Further project proposal

- To investigate the impact of giving a radio aid to babies at the time they are first fitted with hearing aids
 - FM quality standards
 - Radio aid at first fit
 - Berkshire and Dorset
 - NHS and Education



Areas to be assessed

- Well being
- Listening
- Language
- Communication
- Practicalities for families
- Impact on audiology, education and speech & language services

Acknowledgements

- Children and families who took part in the first project
- Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Audiology Department
- UK Children's FM Working Group
- Professor Wendy McCracken, University of Manchester
- Dr Imran Mulla, Ear Foundation
- Phonak