



## **Professional Development through Distance Education**

---

**Laurie Cochenour, M.Ed.**  
FIRST YEARS, Project Director  
UNC-CH



## **Professional Preparation in Cochlear Implants**

---

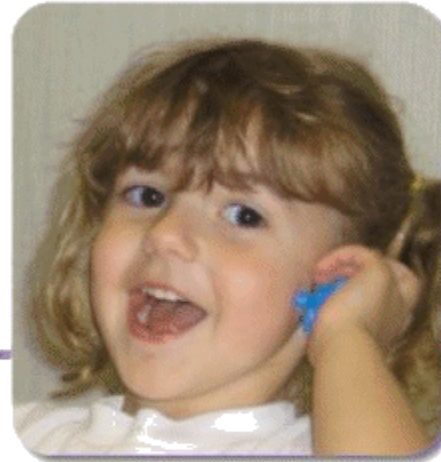
**Mary Ellen Nevins, Ed.D.**  
Independent Contractor to  
The Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia



**first  
years**

Professional Development through Distance Education

<http://firstyears.org>



# Presenter

---



**Laurie Cochenour, M.Ed.**  
Project Director  
UNC-CH

<http://firstyears.org>

# Project Goal

---

- To provide professional development that is:
  - Accessible
  - Academically rigorous
  - Focused on Auditory Learning and Spoken Language in children birth – eight years
  - Developed by expert content providers
  - Experiential and applicable

# Target Participants

---

- Deaf educators
- Early interventionists
- Speech language pathologists
- Special educators
- Audiologists

# Certificate Courses

---

- Survey of Topics in Speech and Hearing (3 credits)
- Audiology Interpretation and Hearing Technologies (4 credits)
- Basic Speech Acoustics (2 credits)
- Normal Aspects of Speech, Language and Auditory Development (3 credits)
- Emerging Literacy (3 credits)
- A Mentorship Experience

Total credit hours = 15

<http://firstyears.org>

# Mentorship Experience

---

- Participants provide 3 videotapes of intervention sessions: the first, submitted following admission; the second, submitted after the the first week of mentored experience; and the third during the last course.
  - obtaining a baseline record of intervention skills;
  - evaluating changes in intervention over time;
  - providing written feedback and suggestions; and
  - ensuring that skills reflect *FIRST YEARS* minimal competencies upon completion of the certificate.

# Mentorship Experience

---

- Occurs in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
- 10-day onsite requirement
  - 5 consecutive days onsite for the first week
  - Remaining 5 day requirement (not necessarily consecutive days)
    - At mentorship site
    - Mentor visit to student's site



# Admissions Requirements and Tuition

---

- a baccalaureate degree in one of the following fields -- deaf education, audiology, speech-language pathology, early childhood special education or special education,
- a license in the state of residence
- at least two years of experience working with children with hearing loss aged birth - 8 years
- \$215/credit hour plus university fees (subject to change by the university)

# FIRST YEARS Web Site

<http://firstyears.org>

