

# Wanted: Pediatric Audiologists

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# EHDI: A Field of Dreams

## Project Goals:

- Raise awareness about EHDI at the pre-service and professional level
- Build enhanced local capacity through the development of future EHDI service providers





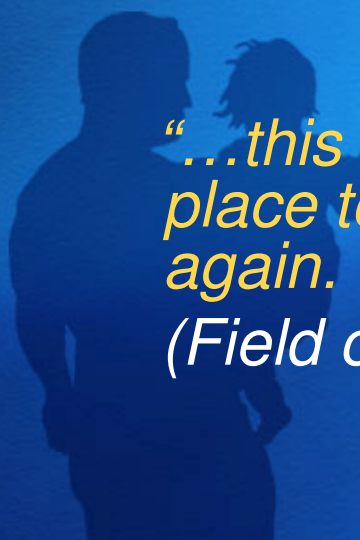
# EHDI: A Field of Dreams

- Evolving multi-faceted project
  - Pediatric Hospital, University Graduate Program, School Districts, Department of Health, School for the Deaf, Headstart, etc.
- Focus areas:
  - EHDI
  - Pediatric Diagnostics
  - Educational Audiology
  - Spoken Language Development



# EHDI: A Field of Dreams

*“The most important role for the family of an infant who is deaf or hard of hearing is to love, nurture, and communicate with the baby. From this foundation, families usually develop an urgent desire to understand and meet the special needs of their infant. Families gain knowledge, insight, and experience by accessing resources and through participation in scheduled early intervention appointments including audiologic, medical, habilitative, and educational sessions.” (JCIH, 2007)*



*“...this is my most special place in all the world. Once a place touches you like this, the wind never blows so cold again. You feel for it, like it was your child . . .”*

*(Field of Dreams, 1989)*

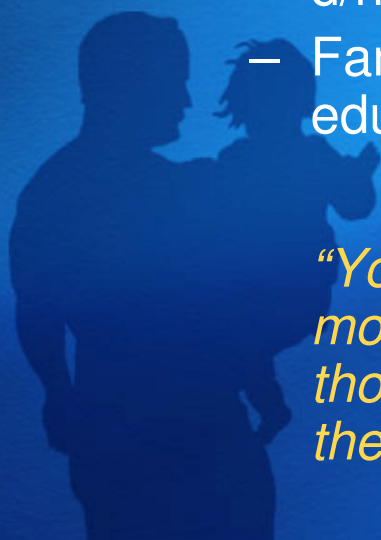


# EHDI: A Field of Dreams

Arkansas Deaf Education Task Force (2004)

## Problem Statements:


- Birth-2 services to families are fragmented and inconsistent and often provided by personnel with little to no expertise in working with infants/children who are deaf/hard of hearing
- Required transitions at age 3 and at Kindergarten are not seamless and interrupt the flow of services
- There are limited program options around the state
- Personnel who work with infants/children/students who are d/hh lack experience and expertise
- Families of children who are d/hh do not receive the support or education they need



*“You know we just don't recognize the most significant moments of our lives while they're happening. Back then I thought, well, there'll be other days. I didn't realize that that was the only day.” (Field of Dreams, 1989)*

# EHDI: A Field of Dreams

- Listened to the Voice . . .
  - *Ease their pain*
  - *If you build it, they will come*
  - *Go the distance*
- ...and applied what we heard to pre-professional training in an effort to “grow” local capacity




*“...everyone thinks I should know what to do because we have two other kids, but what I really need is some positive feedback to know that I am doing things right, right now!” (Parent, 2003)*

*“When they finally diagnosed her with a severe hearing loss, I was devastated. I watched my child who I thought was so perfect playing on the floor, realizing for the first time that she wasn’t hearing anything going on in the room.” (Parent, 2003)*



# Opportunities in the Field of Dreams

- NICU Rotation
- NICU Assistantship
- ECHO Early Headstart project
- SKI-HI training
- UNHS Advisory Board meetings
- Hospital Training Visits with Health Dept
- Research Opportunities



*....she never left my house without telling me, “You are doing an important job. It is very hard work and you are doing it well”. I always waited for her to say that...  
(Parent, 2008)*

*The only thing we had in common was that she was from Iowa, and I had once heard of Iowa . . .  
(Field of Dreams, 1989)*

# Opportunities in the Field of Dreams

- Data Collection, including HiTrack and Limelight
- Hands & Voices Meetings
  - Childcare activities
    - Including deaf/hh children and siblings
  - Parent hearing tests/listening molds
  - ALD/HAT parent demonstrations
- Participate in evaluations, therapy and EI with a family
- Attend IFSP meetings
- Participate in local, state, national presentations

*The advice I give new parents is to be a strong advocate for your child. Never, ever allow anyone to pigeonhole them. Each child has his or her own gifts and no one should put any roadblocks in the path because of a hearing loss. (Parent, 2003)*



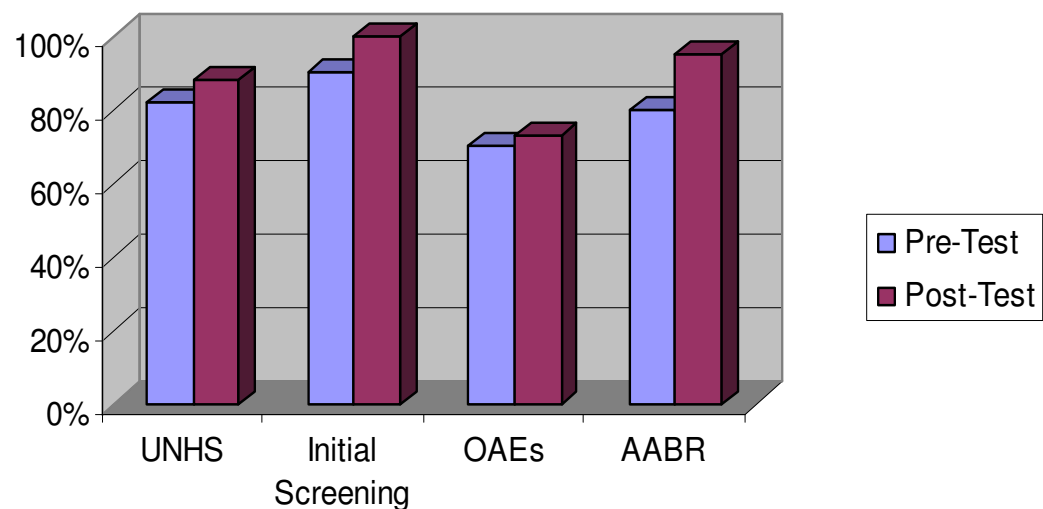
# How are we doing?

- An informal survey was conducted before and after our newborn hearing screening rotation at Arkansas Children's Hospital
- Portions of the NCHAM Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum quiz were used



# How are we doing?

NICU Rotation Pre/Post Results



*“As part of a collaborative team, we have the responsibility to meet the challenge of working with families with caring, compassion and expertise” (Perigoe, 2004)*

*“And is there enough magic out there in the moonlight to make this dream come true?” (Field of Dreams, 1989)*



# Student Responses



*“I have always wanted to work with children but also saw myself working with an adult population. After having several practicum assignments dealing with both adults and children I have realized that I LOVE pediatric Audiology. I have found pediatric Audiology multiplicatively more rewarding than working with adults.”*





*“I always knew that I wanted to work with children but it was not until I had the opportunity to work with children on a daily basis in a clinical setting that I realized my true passion for pediatric audiology.”*





*“Pediatric Audiology class sparked my interest and working with children in a clinical setting has furthered my desire to be a pediatric audiologist.”*



Children in Arkansas  
getting a  
Hearing  
Head Start....



Interested in learning how to enhance  
**family support** within your EHDI system?

**Come to IFSC4!**

Investing in Family Support  
Conference sponsored by  
US MCH and NCHAM  
Scottsdale, AZ  
October 4-6, 2009

