Hearing Aid Management: Parent Education & Support

Steffi Rusk and Karen Muñoz
Utah State University
EHDI Meeting March 10, 2015
Auditory Experience

Duration & Quality

influences outcomes

Tomblin et al., 2014
But... there are challenges such as...

- Child behavior
- Parent confidence
- Acceptance
- Emotions
- Multiple caregivers

Muñoz et al., 2013; Walker et al., 2013; Muñoz et al., 2014
...that affect hearing aid use

4 hours per day for children birth to 4 years

(Jones, 2013; Muñoz et al., 2014)
Parent Survey Findings
(N=318)

Parent Demographics

* Two parent home (85%)
* Mother primary caregiver (73%)
* White (85%)
* Non-Hispanic (95%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>&lt;20K</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>20-40K</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>41-80K</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree</td>
<td>&gt;80K</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20K</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-40K</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-80K</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;80K</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Demographics

- Toddlers (M=23 months)
- Duration of HA use (M=15 months)
- Additional disabilities (30%)
- Spoken language communication (81%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree of Hearing Loss</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild bilateral</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild-to-Severe</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe-to-Profound</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information Needs

Most frequently desired

- How to find financial help (37%)
- What child can/cannot hear
  - without hearing aids (36%)
  - with hearing aids (35%)
- How to get loaner hearing aids (32%)
- How to help child hear in noise (31%)
Skill Needs

Most frequently desired

How to:

* do hearing aid maintenance (40%)
* keep hearing aids on (35%)
* teach others HA skills (25%)

25% did not have tools to check device function
Hearing Aid Use

Top challenges encountered

* Activities (70%)
* Child resistance (70%)
* Fear of losing aids (57%)
* Frequent feedback (55%)
* Other caregivers (49%)
* Distractions from other children (44%)
* Getting in a routine (40%)

35% - hearing aid use less than 8 hours per day
* Depressive symptoms (p=.001)
* Additional disabilities (p=.007)
* Income (p=.000)
* Educational level (p=.000)
* Degree of hearing loss (p=.018)
“Call me at home to see how it’s going”

“Keep monitoring so I know what else I need to do”

27% want audiologist to check in more often...

“Meet with me alone, when I have the baby. I don’t get a second to concentrate or ask questions”
Clinical Implications

Audiologist - Parent Partnerships
## Opportunities to Improve

...information access / skills support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents: Want</th>
<th>Pediatric Audiologists:*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to meet other parents</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options for financial assistance</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to access loaner hearing aids</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to do basic hearing aid maintenance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* (Meibos et al., in review; N = 349)
Opportunities to Improve...support for hearing aid use

Pediatric audiologists reported: (Meibos et al., in review)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not teaching skills to fathers</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not teaching skills to other caregivers</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not being trained to screen for depression and anxiety</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not collaborating with EI/SLP</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?

Thank you