What’s So Natural About “Natural Environment”? 

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WHO WE ARE

- Presenters
- CREC Soundbridge Birth-Three Program
- Connecticut Birth-Three Program
- Our role as providers
WHO ARE YOU?

☐ AVTs
☐ THI/TODs
☐ Audiologists
☐ Doctors
☐ Parents
☐ Nurses
☐ SLPs
RATIONALE FOR DIALOGUE

- Crisis in provision of services
- Misinterpretation of “natural environment”
- Shortage of highly qualified personnel
FINDINGS

UNIQUE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

- Commission on Education of the Deaf
- U.S. DOE OSEP
- IDEA 1997/2004
- Letter from OSEP
- Marilyn Sass-Lehrer
- ASHA/CED Joint Committee
- Hands and Voices
FINDINGS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS & HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

- National Consensus Conference, 2004
- Amy McConkey-Robbins
- Marilyn Sass-Lehrer
- D.D. vs. FOOTHILL SELPA, 2002
- AAP
- OSERS
- Impact on Adult Learners
CONCLUSION

- The need for flexibility in definition of “natural environment” for children with hearing loss to address this population’s unique needs
- Recognition at federal level of crisis in service provision of children with hearing loss
- Shortage in highly qualified personnel
OUR GOAL

- Bring the I in EDHI to national focus
- Gain improved outcomes by providing early intervention services in settings that meet the unique needs of children with hearing loss:
  - Parent/Caregiver networking opportunities
  - Parent/Caregiver and child access to other children/families with hearing loss
  - Access to language and language models
    - Audiological management
    - Sign language
- Effective utilization of highly qualified personnel
- Effective service delivery through state B-3 agencies
SURVEY

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www.crec.org/soundbridge

Direct link to survey:
http://www.crec.org/ss/divisionunits/soundbridge/links.php
LET’S TALK...
Alexander, Lamar, *Notice of Policy Guidance (FAPE/LRE) [Re: Education Services for Students Who are Deaf]*. U. S. Department of Education (October 26, 1992). [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hq9806.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hq9806.html)


Connecticut Birth to Three System (July 2007). *Service Guideline: Young Children who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf, Intervention Guidance for Service Providers and Families*.


BIBLIOGRAPHY


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THANK YOU!

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