Early Intervention’s Long Term Language Planning Impact

Dr. David Geeslin
EHDI Conference 2011
February 21, 2011
Objectives:

• Participants will consider the impact of early language planning decisions on long term academic and employment outcomes of deaf/hard of hearing children.

• Participants will see the importance of including ongoing monitoring of language development and early intervention.
Areas of Focus

• Poor language planning is the cause of a child’s language delay, not their hearing level.

• Global Economic Indicators drive expectations of new graduates.

• Language planning includes monitoring a child’s language use and maximizing opportunities for natural acquisition.
Global Economy

• Comparing the economy of the 1970’s with the present.
• Average salaries of graduates in today’s economy.
• Earning power of graduates.
• Career Opportunities
1970’s

- High School graduates
- $28K per year (today’s dollars)
- Prevalence of Job Opportunities
  - Educational level
  - Entry level
2010’s

- High School graduates
  - $17K (today’s dollars)
- Job Opportunities
  - Educational level
  - Entry Level
Employment Skills

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Relationships
- Creativity
Preparing for:

- Jobs that do not yet exist
- Multi-tasking oriented
- Career Changes
Medium of pedagogy

- Teacher-centered has evolved to student-centered
- Influences your educational planning
- Influences your language planning
Disabling the child?

- Deafness does not cause language delay in children.
- Deafness is the only disability in which outcomes can be so profoundly influenced by intervention choices.
- Deaf child of Deaf Parents show language development consistent with hearing peers.
Language Delay

• Be familiar with
  • Normal language development in both modalities
  • The power of natural language acquisition
Language Monitoring

- Every 6 months
- NECAP (National Early Childhood Assessment Project)
Sense of Urgency

• Waiting and hoping is not best practice

• More states are adopting 6 month monitoring
Leveling the playing field

With appropriate language planning for a deaf and hard of hearing child, the child will have a chance to participate in the future global economy of this planet.