EDUBABY
MARSHALL ISLANDS
A Trans-Pacific Partnership
Presenters

Nancy Rushmer
Katina Peter
Mellanie Lee
Judy Coryell
Jan Fried

Rest of EHDI Team: Project Coordinator: Helen J. David; Project Supervisor, Agnes Flood; Program Evaluator – Univ of Hawai’i Coordinator: Jean Johnson; Pediatric Audiologist: Yusnita Weirather
Cailla, 3 ½ weeks, slept through her first day of school.
A Collaborative Project

Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Education (MOH)
- Marshall Islands Special Parents Association (MISPA)
- Women United Together for the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)
- Marshall Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (MICNGOs)
Partners Across the Pacific

- University of Hawai'i Center on Disabilities Studies
- Kapi'olani Community College American Sign Language/Interpreter Education Program
- Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific
- Pacific Deaf-Blind Project
It All Started With the Parents
Katina Peter

- Grandmother of 12 year old Talianna, who is deaf
- President of Marshall Islands Special Parents Association (MISPA)
- EduBaby Marshall Islands Teacher
Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Former U.S. Trust Territory
- Independent since 1986
- Population 66,000
- 30,000 on Majuro—capitol and main island
- Spreads across 750,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean
Five Islands & 29 Atolls
(made up of over 1100 small islets)
Protestant Church
Talianna

- Birthdate
- Age became deaf
- Family life with Talianna
Katina

- Marshall Islands Special Parents Association
- Katina Peter met Marshall Islands EHDI staff in June, 2010
- Joined August Early Intervention Week activities
- Helped launch new EI program: EduBaby
- Role in EduBaby Marshall Islands
- Advice for other families
RMI EHDI Project Activities

The Beginning
Initial EHDI activities lay groundwork for
EduBaby Marshall Islands

• Newborn Hearing Screening
• Pacific Deaf-Blind Project
• Gallaudet Summer Internship Program
• Summer School: Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing
• American Sign Language for Community
May 2010 NHS Training

Agnes Flood, Supervisor & Newborn Nurses

Yusnita Weirather, Pediatric Audiologist
Pacific Deaf-Blind Project
June 2010

- Long history of TA in the RMI
- Supported EHDI Team in making connections w/agencies and community leaders
- Collaborated onsite with GURC to support Child Find efforts, provided TA and assessment and developed 3-year plan for program development
Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific - Summer Internship Program

- 2 Deaf college interns (1 Local & 1 from the “island” of NJ)
- 12-week internship
- Served as Mentors, Teachers (ASL), Models, Spokespeople
- Amazing impact on Deaf/HH/DB children, families & community
RMI Summer School

- All Deaf/HH/DB from Majuro together
- Lasted 4 weeks
- Curriculum jointly developed with RMI teachers and GURC
- Gallaudet interns team taught with teachers
- Culminating Activity
July-ASL Week

• 75+ SPED teachers took 1-week intensive-Great fun!
• Taught by Jan, Mela & Daniel
• Joined by Deaf students, their families & Deaf teachers
• Outcomes: Basic communication skills & a new appreciation for ASL & Deaf people
Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation
August, 2010

Eleven babies tested.
Three confirmed with hearing loss.
Early Intervention Week
August, 2010

• E.I. workshop for Newborn Nurses
• Referral of three babies with hearing loss
• Conference with Ministry of Education (MOE)
Ministry of Education (MOE) Advise and Support EI Week

- Ruthiran Lokeijak, Director of Special Education
- Teikla Enos, Supervisor of ECSE for MOE, loaned to EHDI Project for Early Intervention Week
  - Set up all home & school visits with EI Specialist
  - Served as Marshallese-English translator
  - Family support & co-teaching with EI Specialist
  - Represented MOE in all Early Intervention Week activities
- MOE indicates there is no public funding for early intervention
Conference With Katina Peter, MISPA

Afternoon spent brainstorming EI Week
Early Intervention Week Plan

- Home visits with families and identified infants
- Home/school visits with families of recently identified children with hearing loss (3–6 years)
- Find site for EI Training workshops
- Recruit individuals for EI Training
- Recruit teachers for new EI services
- Secure funding for new EI services
- Determine management for new EI program
- Begin community awareness and Child Find activities
Marshall Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (MICNGOs)

Private funding options and management of new EI program explored with Bonny Taggart
MICNGOs Coordinator
Enroll Three Babies in EI
August, 2010

Baby school sure is relaxing!
Family Support Begins

Teikla Enos, Early Childhood Special Ed Supervisor
Recruit Teachers for Workshops

- A walk on the beach and Co-op preschool teacher is recruited
- More Co-op School Teachers attend
Prospective teachers select name for new early intervention program. Parents as Teachers staff from WUTMI attend.
Women United Together for the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)

WUTMI to support EduBaby Marshall Islands
School Support for Newly Identified Children (3–6 yrs)

Kindergartners Learn Signs

Teacher Support
Family Visit for Deaf-Blind Student
Wrap-Up Early Intervention Week

- Report progress to Ministry of Education
- Report progress to Ministry of Health, Newborn Hearing Screening Team
- Select two teachers: Katina Peter, Teikla Enos
- Public Awareness Campaign
  - Radio announcement and Child Find event
  - Article in Marshall Islands Journal
  - Met with U.S. Ambassador to RMI, Martha Campbell
Outcomes

- Three babies enrolled in new EI Family Support Program
- Two EI teachers selected to volunteer for next six months
- Plans for Sign Language instruction for families
- Future EI teacher training forecast for 2011
- Ongoing public awareness and Child Find for children with hearing loss birth to five years
Outcomes (cont.)

• Further evaluation of RMI Deaf Education and Teacher Training forecast for 2011
• WUTMI Parents as Teachers committed to work with EduBaby Marshall Islands
• MICNGOs commits to help with grant proposal for private funding for EduBaby Marshall Islands
Kommol Tata!

Our Thanks for the wonderful support:

- Ruthiran Lokeijak, Special Education Director, RMI
- Teikla Enos, MOE Early Childhood SpED Supervisor
- Ministry of Education, RMI
- Helen J. David, EHDI Project Director, RMI
- Agnes Flood, NHS, Ministry of Health, RMI
- Katina & Talianna Peter and MISPA
- Bonny Taggart, Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOs)
Kommol Tata cont’d

- Honorable Martha Campbell, US Ambassador to the RMI
- Eric Watnik, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, RMI
- Daisy Momotaro, Executive Director, WUTMI
- Ramona Levy-Strauss, President, WUTMI
- Miram Wase deBrum, Supervisor-PAT/Parents as Teachers, WUTMI
- SpED Teachers, Majuro Co-op School
EHDI Project Teaching in Marshall Islands

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Bina received a Roiak School visit from EHDI teacher, Nancy Rushmer, and MOE Teacher, Teklia Enos.

On Jiji's first day he took a nap while his family and friends learned Sign Language.

MOE Teacher Teklia Enos showed Jiji's family how to teach Jiji.

Bina and Teacher Nanes practiced Sign Language.

Bina and her kindergarten friends watched a Sign Language movie.

Christian played with boats.

Baby Liam likes the shaking toy.

By EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) Project of the Marshall Islands

A collaborative project between NIEEA, MOH, MOE, WUTM, University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies, Gallaudet Community College-Interpreter Training Program, Gallaudet University Regional Center and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project

Hearing Detection and Intervention

Act of the Marshall Islands

MOE WUTM, University of Hawaii Center on Disabilities Studies, Gallaudet University Regional Center and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project

MOH, MOE, WUTM, and MISPA and Detection and Intervention)