



HOP

HEARING OUTREACH PROJECT OF VERMONT
HOP/CSHN • P.O. Box 70, 108 Cherry Street • Burlington, Vermont 05402
(V/TTY) 800-537-0076 • 802-863-7338

Background of the Project

Concern about the unacceptably late identification and treatment of Vermont children with permanent hearing loss culminated in the efforts of the Early Identification of Hearing Loss Committee of the Vermont Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs, resulting in the design of this project.

Goal of the Project

The goal of this project is to reduce the age of identification of Vermont children with permanent hearing loss.

Method of the Project

The project is a model public/private partnership between the Vermont Department of Health and local hospitals. Statewide outreach sites have been established implementing otoacoustic emissions testing (OAE). Testing is available on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

Timeframe

Otoacoustic emissions testing is currently available at the following sites: HOP/CSHN VT Department of Health in Burlington, North Country Hospital in Newport, Central Vermont Medical Center, Inc., in Berlin, Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans, Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital in Brattleboro, Porter Hospital in Middlebury, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, Copley Hospital in Morrisville, Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, The Family Place in Norwich and the Vermont Department of Health in Springfield.

Access and Referral

The project encourages referral of any child with suspected hearing loss or high-risk factors. Testing for early identification of hearing loss is targeted to children ages birth through seven years of age; however older, difficult-to-test children may also be referred.

The success of otoacoustic emissions testing requires that children be free from middle ear effusion, and excessive ear canal wax at the time of testing. The visit may include tympanometry and a visual inspection of each ear canal prior to the emissions testing.

Results of the testing will be reported, with the parents permission, to the referral source, the Department of Health, and the child's primary care physician. Repeat visits will be scheduled if further testing is needed. Follow-up of recommendations will be tracked.

Referrals may be made by calling HOP toll free at (V/TTY) (800) 537-0076.

For specific questions about hearing loss and other hearing-related issues, please call: Chantal L. McCullough, M.A., CCC-Audiologist at the VT Department of Health, 1-800-660-4427.

10/2/02

HEARING OUTREACH PROJECT OF VERMONT (HOP)

A brief review including referral protocol

- ◆ The hearing screening is quick, easy and painless. State-of-the-art computerized otoacoustic emissions testing is provided for the birth through 7-year population by a certified audiologist.
- ◆ **HOP** accepts referrals of all newborns, infants, and toddlers with suspected permanent hearing loss and older difficult-to-test children.
- ◆ HOP does not accept referrals of children already diagnosed with hearing loss.
- ◆ Babies, toddlers or difficult to test children referred to HOP should be free from wax impactions and active ear infections (HOP will schedule once the ear infection has resolved).
- ◆ The hours of the clinics are generally 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. depending upon the number of referrals received and the distance to be traveled by the HOP Audiologist to the clinic site. (See enclosure for location and day of your local clinic).
- ◆ There is centralized scheduling of clinic appointments through the HOP Secretary. To make a referral or an appointment for any of the HOP clinic locations, call the HOP Office in Burlington, toll free, (800) 537-0076 (TTY/V).
- ◆ Costs are primarily covered by insurance/Medicaid (fee for service and managed care plans). Insurances will be billed however, if a family's insurance does **not** cover the cost or if a family has no insurance, **HOP will not bill the family for the balance!**
- ◆ Parents of young children who are diagnosed with a hearing loss may contact Audrey Poole, R.N., M.Ed. at the Vermont Department of Health (800) 660-4427 for additional financial assistance.

Hearing Outreach Project of Vermont (HOP)

The hours HOP clinics are held are dependent upon the number of appointments scheduled. Area HOP clinics are held monthly at the following locations:

Bennington HOP Clinic
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
100 Hospital Drive, Bennington
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 4th Tuesday

Berlin HOP Clinic
Central Vermont Hospital
Fisher Road, Berlin
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 1st Thursday

Brattleboro HOP Clinic
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
81 Belmont Ave., Brattleboro
(800) 537-0076(V/TTY)
Every 1st Tuesday

Burlington HOP Clinic
Vermont Department of Health (CSHN)
108 Cherry Street, Burlington
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 2nd & 3rd Thursday

Middlebury HOP Clinic
Porter Hospital
South Street, Middlebury
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 4th Thursday

Morrisville HOP Clinic
Copley Hospital
Washington Highway, Morrisville
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 2nd Friday

Newport Hop Clinic
North Country Hospital
Visiting Physicians Clinic
Prouty Road, Newport
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 4th Thursday

Norwich HOP Clinic
The Family Place
319 US Route 5, Norwich
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every other 2nd Tuesday

Randolph HOP Clinic
The Carriage House/Gifford Medical Center
36 S. Main Street, Randolph
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 2nd Thursday

Rutland HOP Clinic
Rutland Regional Medical Center
160 Allen Street, Rutland
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 3rd Thursday

Springfield HOP Clinic
Vermont Dept. of Health, Suite 104
100 Mineral Street, Springfield
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 3rd Wednesday

St. Albans HOP Clinic
Northwestern Med. Ctr., Specialty Care
Fairfield Street, St. Albans
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 1st Friday

St. Johnsbury HOP Clinic
Northeastern VT Regional Hospital
Hospital Drive, St. Johnsbury
(800) 537-0076 (V/TTY)
Every 4th Friday

From out of state:
(802) 863-7326 (V/TTY)

Revised 9/02

TALK TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR AN AUDIOLOGIST IF:

- you or someone in your family thinks your child cannot hear.
- someone in your family has been deaf or hard of hearing since birth or early childhood.
- mother had measles, mumps, herpes, or other illness while pregnant, or child was born with one of these.
- a hearing test in the newborn nursery or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) showed there might be a problem and your child has not been retested.
- newborn child was given antibiotics or other drugs that could harm the baby or toddler's ability to hear.
- your child's ear, eye, head or neck looks different (such as extra skin, cleft palate, or Down Syndrome)



OR IF YOUR CHILD:

- ❖ did not get enough air (oxygen) at birth.
- ❖ weighed less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces at birth.
- ❖ needed help breathing at birth.
- ❖ had a blood transfusion for severe jaundice.
- ❖ had bacterial meningitis.
- ❖ had a head injury.
- ❖ does not talk as well as other children the same age.
- ❖ does not use as many words or 2-3 word sentences as other children the same age.
- ❖ has difficulty learning.

If any of these fit your child, talk to your health care provider or an audiologist. Even a newborn baby can have a hearing test.



**Contact HOP at the Health Department
for further information,
1-800-537-0076 (V/TTY)**

DOES YOUR BABY HEAR YOUR VOICE?

Does your baby hear your voice? Your baby needs to hear you talking to learn how to speak and for language to develop. Know what to look for as your baby grows so that you can be sure that your child is hearing. If you have any concerns, your baby can be tested as early as the first days of life. Contact the Hearing Outreach Project (HOP) at the Health Department for further information, 1-800-537-0076 (V/TTY).

HEARING: DOES YOUR BABY BY AGE

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS:

- ♥ jump or give a startle response when there is a sudden loud noise?
- ♥ stir or wake up when you or someone else talks or makes noise?
- ♥ become quiet when a familiar voice such as yours speaks?

3 TO 6 MONTHS:

- ♥ turn and look to see where a sound is coming from?
- ♥ enjoy playing with toys that make noise?
- ♥ smile when spoken to without seeing your face?
- ♥ respond to mother or father's voice?

6 TO 9 MONTHS:

- ♥ turn towards interesting sounds?
- ♥ begin to wave when you say bye-bye?

9 TO 12 MONTHS:

- ♥ look around when hearing new and different sounds (dog barking, paper rustling)?
- ♥ follow simple directions?
- ♥ point to or look at familiar objects or people when asked: "Where's mommy"?

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE: DOES YOUR BABY BY THE AGE

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS:

- ♥ coo and gurgle?
- ♥ make pleasure sounds?

3 TO 6 MONTHS:

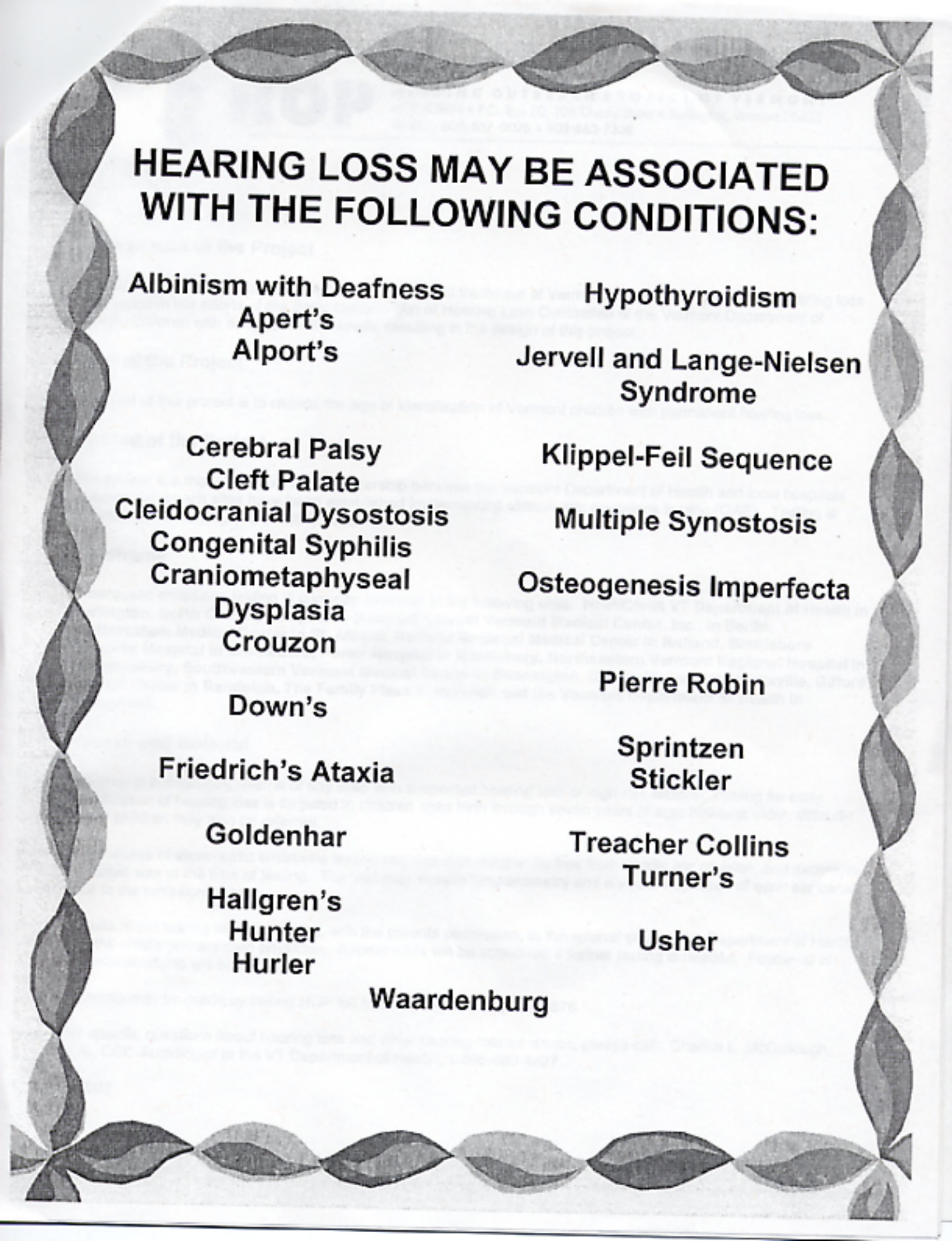
- ♥ repeat the same sounds over and over?
- ♥ smile when you are seen?
- ♥ have a different cry for different needs?

6 TO 9 MONTHS:

- ♥ use different sounds and appear to be naming objects?
- ♥ babble

9 TO 12 MONTHS:

- ♥ appear to be talking?
- ♥ use consonant sounds as b, d, g, m, and p?
- ♥ have one or two words although they may not be clear (mama, dada, or bye-bye)



**HEARING LOSS MAY BE ASSOCIATED
WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

Albinism with Deafness

Apert's

Alport's

Hypothyroidism

**Jervell and Lange-Nielsen
Syndrome**

Cerebral Palsy

Cleft Palate

Cleidocranial Dysostosis

Congenital Syphilis

Craniometaphyseal

Dysplasia

Crouzon

Klippel-Feil Sequence

Multiple Synostosis

Osteogenesis Imperfecta

Down's

Pierre Robin

Friedrich's Ataxia

**Sprintzen
Stickler**

Goldenhar

**Treacher Collins
Turner's**

Hallgren's

Hunter

Hurler

Usher

Waardenburg