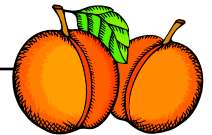


What's So Natural About “Natural Environment”?



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Soundbridge



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...

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THANK YOU!

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