



NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING TRAINING CURRICULUM

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GLOSSARY/DEFINITIONS

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American Sign Language (ASL): A language expressed through movements of the hands and face often used by an individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing. ASL serves as the predominant language of deaf communities.

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Artifact: Responses that are not considered a response from the hearing nerve but rather from muscles or electrical noise.

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Atresia: A congenital lack or absence of a fully developed ear canal, eardrum, middle ear space, and ear bones. Ear canal can appear closed off/ no opening. It can be unilateral (one ear) or bilateral (both ears).

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Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR): A test that is used to screen or to diagnose hearing loss (as part of comprehensive diagnostic audiologic testing). The ABR evaluates the nervous system response to sound.

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Auditory Neuropathy (AN): A rare type of hearing loss characterized by normal or near normal cochlear hair cell function and absent or abnormal auditory nerve function. It is caused by disruption of the nerve impulses traveling from the inner ear to the brain.

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Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (A-ABR): An ABR screening that is fully automated and provides an objective pass/fail (refer) outcome.

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Cochlea: The 'snail' shaped portion of the inner ear that houses the sensory cells for hearing.

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Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV): A common viral infection, and the leading non-genetic cause of hearing loss, that infants are born with in the United States. Every pregnant woman is at risk of acquiring CMV and it is preventable.

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Craniofacial Anomaly (CFA): Abnormalities or malformations of the of the face, head and/or neck.

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Data Submission: Data variables related to hearing screening risk factors, diagnosis and intervention provided to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program in the state or territory where the baby was born on a routine basis in an electronic or written format.

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Deaf or Hard of Hard of Hearing (D/HH): Individuals with hearing differences/atypical hearing of various degree, type, and configuration.

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Debris: Anything that is found in the ear canal following birth and include such things as vernix or fluid.

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Delayed Onset Hearing Loss: Hearing loss that develops sometime after birth and before entering kindergarten.

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Demographic Information: Data variables used to identify a specific person. Including: sex, date of birth, maternal age, ethnicity, education, and race.

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Diagnostic ABR: When the ABR is conducted to diagnose a hearing loss, it is referred to as a diagnostic ABR; compared to an AABR conducted for screening purposes.

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Diagnostic Hearing/Audiologic Evaluation: A series of tests performed by an audiologist to determine if a hearing loss exists, and, if so, the type (part of the auditory system affected), degree (how much hearing loss exists) and configuration (frequencies or pitches that are affected) of the loss.

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Discharge: Release of a newborn from the hospital to the care of the parent or legal guardian.

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Disposable Supplies: Single use supplies used for conducting hearing screenings such as probe tips, electrodes, skin prep, electrode gel, etc.

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Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI): The acronym is used nationally to describe the program of screening tracking follow-up testing and enrollment in early intervention based on the 1-3-6 national goals

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Early Intervention (EI): A federal program (also known as Part C) that provides for services and supports to children birth through 2 years old at risk for developmental delays or disabilities. These services can include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, and more. The program is operated at the state level.

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Effective Communication: Whatever is being communicated, whether written or spoken must be as clear and understandable to people with disabilities as it is for people who do not have disabilities. This is important because some people have disabilities that affect how they communicate.

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EHDI Follow-up: Next steps after an infant does not pass the hearing screening prior to discharge such as outpatient re-screening diagnostic audiologic evaluation and medical evaluation.

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EHDI State Program: Every state and territory in the United States has established an EHDI program. The EHDI program staff are responsible for creating operating and continuously improving a system of follow-up services and supports for children who have or may have hearing loss.

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Electrical Noise: Interference that occurs when equipment is plugged into wall outlets. Line noise can interfere with the test and effect the accuracy of the results.

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Electrodes: 'Band-aid'-like sensors that are placed on the head for ABR screening that records the responses from the hearing nerve.

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Fail: Term used to denote the result that is not a pass on the hearing screen. It is an indication that the infant is at risk for having hearing loss and requires follow-up testing consisting of either a re-screen or referral for audiologic evaluation. A hearing screening 'fail' outcome does not mean permanent hearing loss exists, only that criterion for a 'pass' outcome was not met at the time of screening.

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