

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING MONTHLY

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New Year, New Families to Serve

Happy New Year from the Colorado Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (CO EHDI) family! We hope that you have all had a chance to rest, reflect, and recharge over the holiday season and reconnect with your families, friends, and loved ones. In this issue, we thought it fitting to feature another parent story as we all embark on a new year serving new families. We also thought it fitting to highlight some of the new resources available through the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM). Listening to parent stories and seeking out new professional development resources are two great ways to refresh and recharge the “tools in your toolbox” that you use in your everyday interaction with families.

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UPDATED NCHAM NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING TRAINING CURRICULUM - CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED!

The Biehl Family's Story

By Ryan Biehle



We were so grateful to have the newborn hearing screening follow-up after our daughter failed the first hearing test. We were absolutely excited to be new parents, but also exhausted and a little overwhelmed by our new responsibilities!

When we took her to the room for her hearing test, which must have been in the middle of the night, our daughter showed her true colors. They have to be asleep for the test to work, but she was pretty restless and the test showed she didn't pass.

We were pretty concerned. If she had hearing loss, we wanted to know as soon as possible so we could help her through it and get her whatever treatment she needed. We knew early detection was so important because we could get her extra help in her crucial years of language development.

We went for a follow-up hearing test a few weeks later in the middle of the afternoon when, after some extra loops around the block, she fell asleep enough to do the test again.

This time she passed. We took a deep breath and were grateful, but we were also glad to know that if she didn't pass in that moment, we could get her the resources she needed to have every opportunity in life.

Reflection Questions

- What are some possible reasons a baby may not pass their newborn hearing screening on the first screening attempt other than hearing loss?
- If you were the newborn hearing screening professional in this scenario, what words would you use to emphasize the importance of follow-up testing?

NCHAM Resources

Module 6 in the NCHAM's updated Newborn Hearing Screening Training Curriculum is all about communicating with families and other providers. Know that your words, your attitude, and your non-verbal communication have an impact on families. You can help families to fully understand screening results so that they can take appropriate action, such as follow-up screening and/or diagnostic testing.

Three take-away strategies for communicating newborn hearing screening results to families:

1. Provide results to families both verbally and in writing (in the family's primary language).
2. Use **scripts** to explain screening results so the results are explained using simple, clear, and consistent language.
3. Allow a few extra minutes at the end of the screening for parents to ask their questions.

Here To Help

For technical questions about hearing screening, please contact:
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