Early Intervention and the Family Role
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Agenda
- What is early intervention?
- The brain and early intervention
- The role of the family

How Many Hours in a week?

What is Early intervention?
- A system of services to help children with disabilities or delay and their families
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures that children with hearing loss receive free, appropriate public education (FAPE):
  - From birth to age 3 (part C)
  - Throughout school years, ages 3-21 (part B)
- Early intervention services are family-centered

Goal of early intervention
- Help your child stay on schedule with his or her speech, language, and communication skills
- Enhance your understanding of your child’s hearing loss and special communication needs
- Support your family in a way that helps you feel confident in raising your child with hearing loss
- Keep track of your child’s progress and to make decisions for intervention and education each step of the way as your child develops

Earlier is better!
Children with hearing loss who receive early intervention and are fitted with hearing technology by 6 months old have better “outcomes”
Why Earlier?

Brain research

- Neural circuits are most flexible during the first three years of life.
- Persistent "toxic" stress can damage the developing brain.
- The brain is strengthened by positive early experiences.
- Early social/emotional development and physical health provide the foundation for cognitive and language skills.
- High quality early intervention services can improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

- The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2010)

Use it or lose it

- Important to stimulate the auditory centers.
- Neurons on the auditory centers of the brain get "recruited" to other areas of the brain.

The most important part of brain development:

Quantity Vs. Quality of talk

- More is not always necessarily better.
- How and what you say to your child is important!

Hearing aids and language

- Well-fit HAs reduces risk and provides some degree of protection against language delay.
- Early HA provision results in better early language outcomes.
- Consistent HA use provides some protection against language delay and supports auditory development.
- Qualitative dimensions of caregiver input influence child language outcomes.

Factors that influence outcomes

- Aided audibility
- HA use
- Characteristics of the language environment

UNITY POEM

Thank you for participating today!
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See you next month!
Tuesday, July 18, 2017 - 11:00 AM to 11:15 AM MT
Topic: Mainstreaming Success
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