



Monthly Update

Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss

February 2013

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Forward this update to share [Supporting Success](#) with parents and colleagues!

Welcome to February and a new month of growth through learning experiences and information. I appreciate your tapping into *Supporting Success* for resources and hope that you enjoyed the January update including information on [Cholesteatoma – What is it and how can it affect learning?](#) and [Transition Planning for Adulthood](#). This month the focus is on literacy and hearing screening! We are halfway through the school year and you may want to consider attending the next webinar to find out if Interact-AS speech-to-text software might be right for your students who are struggling. There are many resources on the *Supporting Success* website – remember to **use the keyword search!**

WHAT'S NEW FOR FEBRUARY?



3 RESOURCES

1 PRODUCT

New Interact-AS Webinar date

We are over half-way through the school year. Will your students need 'something more' next year?

Some students who have held their own throughout elementary seem to fall behind in once they hit middle school. If a student has been an effective listener and speechreader, it may be time to consider providing additional accommodation supports. The [Interact-AS speech-to-text translation](#) software is an **inexpensive** accommodation that may be appropriate for many students who are hard of hearing who struggle to keep up in the classroom. A low-cost trial period makes it easy to explore for students with hearing loss.



Want to find out more about Interact-AS?

The January webinar filled up fast! *Supporting Success* is teaming up with Robert Palmquist of Auditory Sciences, developer of Interact AS, to provide a second **free, 30-minute live webinar** to explain how it works and answer questions from school staff, administrators and parents of children with hearing loss on **Tuesday February 12th at 4:00 Eastern**. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/228917534>. Thanks to all of you who signed up for the January webinar!

NEW RESOURCES

Families

- As you will see, the new product this month will help boost a child's literacy and knowledge of hearing loss and devices. [Developing Your Child's Reading Skills](#) is a new webpage written to provide some 'basics' to family members about how to encourage a love for reading and a few specific techniques to use with their child with hearing loss.



Professionals

- [Speech and Language Considerations for the Child with Hearing Loss](#) is a new webpage that presents a 12-step method for considering children’s speech and language needs. Included are two new handouts: *Listening Skills Develop Over Time* and *Speech Sound Development Chart*. A number of helpful links have also been included. This information has been designed for professionals who are not already experts in speech and language development of children with hearing loss or who may be seeking a methodical ‘have I thought of everything’ list!



- The [Hearing Screening Resources](#) webpage has been updated and now includes excellent and extensive information for you to use in [training hearing screeners](#). Based on research conducted by Diana Emanuel of Towson University in collaboration with the Baltimore City School System to develop training videos and materials, including a [common mistakes video](#). Links to both YouTube and embedded video formats are available for you to be able to work with your administration to conduct a truly effective hearing screening training.

(Drawing by Laurie Allen)

NEW PRODUCT!

I’m excited to introduce the first Literacy Booster! This great idea combines the material of well-loved books that help children understand hearing loss/hearing devices with specific literacy goals, objectives and 25 activities!



[Oliver Gets Hearing Aids](#), was published in 2001 by the Phonak hearing aid company. Phonak has generously provided [Oliver Gets Hearing Aids](#) [free for download](#) for you to have on your iPad/computer or for you to print out on a color printer. The Literacy Booster CD provides 25 activities in 3 areas: phonologic/phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension. A ready-made literacy and self-advocacy curriculum for only \$17.99, including S/H. The Literacy Booster CD does not include the Oliver book.

Highlighted Resources of the Month

- Hearing is a distance sense. How ‘far’ can a child with hearing loss hear, with and without hearing devices? Identifying the size of a child’s listening bubble for detecting sound and also for understanding speech is important for families and for professionals to estimate so that effective communication can happen. The Early Listening Function questionnaire, or [ELF](#) is designed for infants to help families through the [discovery process](#) but the concepts apply equally to children of all ages.



- For success in school the student with hearing loss needs to have the classroom environment adapted and accommodations provided to meet his/her needs. The webpage [Accommodations for Students with Hearing Loss](#) provides two handouts: *Children with Hearing Loss – Helpful Adaptations in the School Environment* and *Accommodations to Consider to Address the Access and Learning Needs of Students with Hearing Loss*. Do you have one or both of these in front of you when you attend an IEP meeting?



Supporting Success WEBCASTS

Consider viewing a webcast at an upcoming team meeting for both professional development and to aid in discussion about how your team can update their practices. There are 4 webcasts available for view and provide opportunities to earn CEUs.

“It was AWESOME! The downloadable handouts were fabulous. It took us closer to 2 hours but that’s because we

kept pushing the “pause” button to discuss things that you were presenting, relating your information to OUR experiences.”

- [Supporting School Entry/Transition Using the Starting School LIFE and CHILD Checklists](#)
- [Assessing Student Classroom Listening Challenges and Strategies: Introducing LIFE-R](#)
- [Listen to Learn: Estimating Access to Verbal Instruction](#)
- [Understanding Children’s Aided Hearing using the Desired Sensation Level Approach](#)

Thanks again to all of you who are new to *Supporting Success* and to those of you who have returned many times. I’m pleased that there are now over 1450 subscribers to the monthly updates with 5000 visitors in January alone. Thanks for taking advantage of these resources to support the children with hearing loss in your life!

I welcome your communication and encourage you to [submit suggestions](#) for resources you need and how we can grow to better support the success of children with hearing loss. – Karen

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