**Family Survey – Managing Your Child’s Hearing Aids**

**February 2012**

The purpose of this survey is to collect information on what really helped you and your family move from first recognizing that your child had a hearing loss, to being fully comfortable helping your child wear his or her hearing devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA, FM) every day for most or all of his waking hours.

When you remember back to the time you first learned your child had a hearing loss you may have many confused feelings. There came the moment that you realized that your child would need to wear hearing aids. You may have felt very overwhelmed by all there was for you to learn about your child’s hearing loss and needs. What did your audiologist share with you or what information did you find out by yourself or from other parents that really helped you?

Our intent is to use the information we learn from ‘experienced parents’ to develop information to guide audiologists and families that will really help them to help their children to use their hearing devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids, FM systems) all waking hours.

1. The type of my child’s hearing loss is:
   1. Conductive
   2. Sensorineural
   3. Mixed
   4. Auditory dyssynchrony/neuropathy
   5. I don’t know
2. My child’s degree of hearing loss in the right ear is:
   1. No hearing loss
   2. Mild
   3. Moderate
   4. Moderate-Severe
   5. Severe
   6. Severe-Profound
   7. Profound
3. My child’s degree of hearing loss in the left ear is:
   1. No hearing loss
   2. Mild
   3. Moderate
   4. Moderate-Severe
   5. Severe
   6. Severe-Profound
   7. Profound
4. My child’s hearing loss was identified at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years of age
5. My child wears the following kind(s) of hearing devices (choose all that apply):
   1. Hearing aid(s)
   2. Cochlear implant(s)
   3. BAHA(s)
   4. FM
6. My child’s audiologist began to discuss that my child may/did need hearing devices:
   1. Immediately after the tests that confirmed there was a hearing loss
   2. At the 2nd or 3rd appointment when all hearing testing was done
   3. Other:
7. When my child’s audiologist began to discuss hearing devices with me, information was shared in the following way(s) (choose all that apply). Then rate how much the information really helped you understand why hearing aids were so important and increased your comfort in knowing you could really help your child this way.

0= my child’s audiologist didn’t do this 1= it didn’t really help me understand, 2 = it helped me a little, 3 = it helped me quite a lot, 4 = it really helped me to understand

* 1. Described what my child could and could not hear 0 1 2 3 4
  2. Described hearing devices to me 0 1 2 3 4
  3. Showed me hearing device(s) that would likely work for my child (real or photo) 0 1 2 3 4
  4. Had me listen to a simulation of my child’s hearing loss 0 1 2 3 4
  5. Gave me written material describing how important it was for my child to use hearing device(s) 0 1 2 3 4
  6. Talked about my baby or child’s changing brain and how important hearing devices were to development 0 1 2 3 4
  7. Gave me written material that had step-by-step instructions on what I needed to do to help my child wear hearing devices all waking hours 0 1 2 3 4
  8. Connected me with other families that had a child with hearing loss: 0 1 2 3 4
  9. Gave me a list of resources on the internet that would help me 0 1 2 3 4

1. What really helped me the most to understand my child’s need to use hearing devices and what I could do to help him to wear them all the time was: (open ended comment box)
2. How long did it take you to feel comfortable effectively managing your child’s hearing devices:
   1. Putting hearing devices on your child’s head
      1. 0-1 month
      2. 2-3 months
      3. 4-6 months
      4. 7-12 months
      5. > 12 months
   2. Knowing the device was working
      1. 0-1 month
      2. 2-3 months
      3. 4-6 months
      4. 7-12 months
      5. > 12 months
   3. Keeping device on all your child’s head all waking hours
      1. 0-1 month
      2. 2-3 months
      3. 4-6 months
      4. 7-12 months
      5. > 12 months
3. One issue that most families have at some point is how to keep hearing devices on the head their active child. Another issue that may concern parents is damage to the hearing device from moisture or dirt. Identify the accessory products that your family has used with the hearing devices and their level of usefulness to you:

a. Ear Gear: (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. The audiologist mentioned it, but discouraged us from using it because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on the child’s head and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4

Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on the child’s head and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Ear Gear:

b. Hanna Andersson Caps (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. The audiologist mentioned it, but discouraged us from using it because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on the child’s head and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on the child’s head and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4

Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on the child’s head and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Hanna Andersson Caps:

c. Hearing aid sweatband (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. The audiologist mentioned it, but discouraged us from using it because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on the child’s head and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on the child’s head and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4

Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on the child’s head and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Hearing aid sweatband:

d. Huggie aids (description)

Hearing aid sweatband Your comments about Huggie Aids:

e. Junior Kidz Clips (Phonak) (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on the child’s head and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Junior Kidz Clips:

e. Otoclips (Westone) (description

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on the child’s head and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Otoclips:

f. SafeNSound (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about SafeNSound:

g. Superseals (description)

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about Superseals:

h. Toupee`/Wig tape: Often found at beauty supply stores, toupee` tape or wig tape is designed to hold hair pieces in place without breaking down or harming skin. This tape can be used on the side of hearing devices that faces the head to hold the device more firmly in place.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about using Toupee` or wig tape:

i. Your ‘homemade’ solution – describe:

1. Never heard of a ‘homemade’ solution
2. Never tried a ‘homemade’ solution
3. I knew about it but never tried it
4. I never felt that my child needed this to help keep hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt
5. We have tried this (if so, then please check the ratings below) 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about your homemade solution:

j. Another ‘homemade’ solution – describe:

Effectiveness (how well it kept the hearing device on and/or protected from moisture/dirt): 1 2 3 4 Child safety (think about sharp edges, keep hearing device out of child’s mouth, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Durability (think about breakage, how it holds up after laundering, comes apart easily, wears out, etc.): 1 2 3 4

Ease of use: 1 2 3 4

It helps to keep the hearing device on and working: 1 2 3 4

Your comments about your homemade solution:

1. Did using an FM system complicate keeping hearing devices on your child? (check all that apply)
   1. I don’t know what an FM is
   2. My child does not have an FM
   3. My child uses an FM 1 no difference to 4 very difficult 1 2 3 4

Comments:

1. How much did your audiologist help you to keep devices on your child full time (strategies/support): Rating 1= no help to 4 = extremely helpful 1 2 3 4
2. I believe it would be helpful to have a booklet that guides families about the importance of early, consistent use of amplification and provides strategies to support their child’s full-time hearing device use: Rating 1= unnecessary to 4 = highly important 1 2 3 4
3. Please share any comments you have on what you imagine a helpful parent document would look like (kind of format – e-file, written booklet, brief pamphlet, etc. )
4. Please share any further comments you may have on what could or should be included in information to be developed for families on strategies to keep hearing devices on, safe, and working (i.e., what really worked for you):

***Please share this survey with other families to help us collect more information.***