**Survey for Pediatric Audiologists**

**April 2012**

Universal newborn hearing screening has resulted in early identification of infants with hearing loss. Recent information based on data logging for almost 5000 children has indicated that MOST young children do not achieve full-time hearing aid use, thereby reducing the potential benefits of early identification of hearing loss.

This purpose of this survey is to collect information on the strategies currently used by pediatric audiologists to influence and support parents toward achieving full-time hearing aid use

The intent is to use this information to develop a guidance document for audiologists, with an appropriate companion document for families that will be distributed widely at little or no cost. The desired end-result is improved compliance with children using hearing devices all waking hours (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA, FM).

Reference <http://www.phonakpro.com/content/dam/phonak/gc_hq/b2b/en/events/2010/Proceedings/Pho_Chap_12_Jones_Final.pdf>

1. My estimate of the average number of infants, age 1 year or less, that I fit with hearing aids in 2011?
	1. 1-5
	2. 6-10
	3. 11-15
	4. 16-25
	5. > 25 infants fit with hearing aids per month
2. My clinical setting is:
	1. Pediatric only
	2. Primarily pediatric with some adults
	3. More or less equal numbers of pediatrics and adults
	4. Primarily adults with some pediatrics
3. My clinical setting provides (check all that apply):
	1. Hearing aids
	2. Cochlear implants
	3. Bone-anchored devices
	4. FM
	5. Other
4. I feel as though my audiology training program prepared me to work with families of children with hearing loss:

1 = very limited understanding to 4 = highly effective and confident:

 My rating­ 1 2 3 4

1. I received most of the training in working with families from the following sources (choose all that apply):
	1. Audiology training program
	2. Online continuing education
	3. Audiology conferences
	4. Local workshops/inservice training
2. I begin to discuss hearing device needs with families:
	1. Immediately after initial confirmation of hearing loss
	2. After they return to complete frequency-specific testing
	3. I wait until the family members request information about hearing devices
	4. By the time I see the families they know their child needs hearing device(s)
3. When I begin to discuss hearing device needs with families, I (choose all that apply):

Then, rate your effectiveness in convincing them of the need to move forward to obtain hearing devices and use them full-time.

0= didn’t do this 1= minimally effective to 4 = very effective

* 1. Provide a verbal description of applicable hearing devices 0 1 2 3 4
	2. Show the family child-sized hearing device(s) (real or photo) 0 1 2 3 4
	3. Provide families with a simulation of child’s hearing loss 0 1 2 3 4
		1. Simulation source(s) (e.g., pictorial audiogram, Audioscan, HA software, etc.):
	4. Provide written material regarding importance of hearing device wear 0 1 2 3 4
		1. Material resource(s):
	5. Provide written material with step-by-step instructions on how to achieve full-time wear 0 1 2 3 4
		1. Material resource(s):
	6. Take steps to ensure parent-to-parent support: 0 1 2 3 4
		1. Local families you know
		2. state-sponsored parent guides or family support network
		3. refer to local Hands & Voices
		4. refer to national Hands & Voices
		5. refer to local AG Bell chapter
		6. refer to national Hands & Voices
		7. other:
	7. Direct the family to resources on the internet 0 1 2 3 4
		1. Recommended resources:
1. My biggest challenges in supporting families of children who need hearing devices have been:
	1. Family characteristics (e.g., non-English speakers, very young parents, non-compliant parents):
		1. What you’ve tried with some success:
	2. Hearing loss characteristics (e.g., auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder profound HL, asymmetric HL, unilateral HL, mild HL) :
		1. What you’ve tried with some success:
	3. Child characteristics (e.g., multiple disabilities, extreme premies, other):
		1. What you’ve tried with some success:
2. One issue that most families have at some point is how to keep hearing aids on the heads of their active children. Another issue that may concern parents is damage to the hearing device from moisture or dirt. Identify the accessory strategies you have tried with families/children and your perceptions:

a. Critter Clips: Each clip features a hand-painted character with a color-coordinated cord that attaches to clothing. Also Dino Clips and Sea Clips. Small loop that fits over the curved top of each hearing aid.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

b. Ear Gear: Designed to help prevent the loss of BTE hearing aids, cochlear implant speech processors and FM boots and to protect the hearing device from moisture and dirt. Ear Gear covers the entire hearing device and is available with a cord and clip that securely attaches to the user’s clothing.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

c. Hanna Andersson Caps : Soft, stretchy, light and protective cap of organic cotton. Ties underneath the child’s chin, covering ears completely.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

d. Hearing Aid Sweatband: Fits over the behind-the-ear hearing aid to protect it from moisture enabling the user to leave their hearing aid in place during high perspiration or dirty activities.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

e. Huggie Aids: Two plastic sleeves fit over a behind-the-ear hearing aid with an attached ring of tubing that fits over the outer ear. Also: Huggie Aid Bone Conduction Headband.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

f. Junior Kidz Clips (Phonak): Cord with loops that fit over the curving top of the hearing aid with a retaining clip to attach to the user’s clothing.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

g. Otoclips (Westone): Features a plain or colorful 12” long woven nylon cord. One end of the cord clips to clothing and the other has a small loop that fits over the curved top of the hearing aid.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

h. SafeNSound: Designed to aid in secure retention of hearing aids, cochlear implant processors or eyeglasses. The adjustment beat fits against the head and clips to the clothing. Adjustment beads can be in a variety of shapes including animals, transportation, hearts, etc. Straps come in different colors in infant and child lengths. Also comes in a barrette form.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

i. Superseals: Flexible latex covers made for hearing aid moisture and dirt protection. Available in 4 sizes and a variety of colors, Superseal covers are put onto hearing aids with an installation tool.

1. Never heard of this product
2. Never used
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

j. Sticky wrap/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. Other sticky wrap options are also available from Oticon, Phonak, Westone, etc. 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’ve worked with one or more families that have tried this (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

k. Your ‘homemade’ solution – describe:

1. Never heard of a ‘homemade’ solution
2. Never tried a ‘homemade’ solution
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried a ‘homemade’ (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

l. Another ‘homemade’ solution – describe:

1. Never heard of a ‘homemade’ solution
2. Never tried a ‘homemade’ solution
3. I’ve worked with one or more families that have tried a ‘homemade’ (if so, then below ratings appear)

 Effectiveness for hearing device retention: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

 Child safety: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Durability: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Ease of use by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

 Comment:

Level of compliance by families: 0 = don’t know 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = excellent

1. I believe that it would be beneficial to have a professional practice document that provides guidance on how to support families toward full-time hearing device wear for their children: Rating 1= unnecessary to 4 = highly important

Comments on format for information for audiologists:

Further comments on information to be developed for audiologists:

1. I believe that it would be beneficial to have a written document that provides guidance to families on the importance of early, consistent amplification and how to support their child’s full-time hearing device wear:

Rating 1= unnecessary to 4 = highly important

Comments on format for information for families:

Further comments on information to be developed for families: