



Online Courses for Parents and Professionals Who Want to Know More About Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) are collaborating with the Boys Town Learning Center to offer online courses designed for parents of young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and the professionals who provide support to these children and families.

Who should take the courses?

These courses are designed to meet the needs of both parents and professionals who are responsible for young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. There are courses designed to meet the needs of those who have a lot of experience with young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and those who are newer to the field. Whether you have a background as a teacher of the deaf, special instructor, speech-language pathologist, special educator, or service coordinator, you will be able to find a course that meets your needs.

I'm a professional working with young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Should I ask the families that I work with if they're interested in these courses?

Yes! There are many courses that provide information geared to parents of young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Please share this flyer with parents on your caseload who may be interested.

What courses are offered?

Over 29 courses are currently available online with additional courses coming soon. Some of the classes are brief, lasting only 30 minutes, while others are intense multi-hour modules. A complete list of the current courses is attached, and include topics such as:

- Family-Centered Assessment & Planning for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Hearing Loss 101
- Creating Literacy-Based Classrooms for Preschool Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Teaching Social Interactions in Early Childhood Classrooms for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Augmentative & Alternative Communication Considerations for Children with Hearing Loss

When are the courses offered?

The courses are always available. You can sign up for courses at any time, but you have 30 days to complete each course. We recommend that you sign up for an individual course and complete it before you sign up for more courses.

Is there a cost to take a course?

All the courses are **free** for parents of young children in Pennsylvania's Early Intervention Program and professionals who work with those families. In a special arrangement with Boys Town Learning Center, EITA has a one year subscription that allows Pennsylvania parents and professional staff free access to the courses.

Are inservice training credits available for the courses?

Pennsylvania Infant Toddler Staff Training Hours and Act 48 hours are not available for these courses. However, you will receive a certificate of completion for each course you finish. Check with your administrator or supervisor to see if the certificate of completion will meet your inservice training requirements.

How do I register for the courses?

If you are interested in taking an online course, you need a Subscription Coupon Code.

To obtain a code, professional staff should email OnlineDHH@pattan.net with the following information: First and last name, employer, role/job, counties where you provide Early Intervention services, and the number of 0 – 5 year olds with hearing loss that you are currently providing services to.

Parents who would like to take a course, should email OnlineDHH@pattan.net with the following information: First and last name, county where you live, and the age of your child with a hearing loss.

You will receive an email reply with your Subscription Coupon Code and instructions on how to get started.

What if I have more questions about the courses?

For any additional questions about the online courses, please contact Anne Gaspich, EITA Consultant at agaspich@pattan.net.

Courses Available on Boys Town Learning Center

(Additional Courses Coming Soon!)

Auditory Access: Importance and Outcomes	01:47
In this course, Mary Pat Moeller, Ph.D. and Ryan McCreery, Ph.D. each present on the importance of auditory access for children and the associated outcomes for those children.	
Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder	03:53
These three presentations are recordings from Boys Town National Research Hospital's 2015 Pediatric Audiology Conference on Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD). Presenters Dr. Pat Roush, Jeffrey Simmons and Katie Brennan discuss current issues related to ANSD throughout the continuum of care. Topics covered specifically address identification of ANSD in children, speech and language considerations and pediatric case management.	
Family-Centered Assessment & Planning Practices For Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	11:00
This series of online training modules will present the SCALES Model as a framework for performing comprehensive assessments for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Practices discussed will align with recommendations from the recent international consensus statement on best practices in family-centered intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (Moeller, et. al., 2013). Strategies for assessing skills across communication modalities will be discussed. Participants will be guided through decision-making to select the most appropriate assessment tools to evaluate Social-Emotional, Cognitive/Curriculum, Auditory, Language, Extras (motor, vision, executive function), and Speech Skills. Individual child strengths will be described based on assessment results gathered by caregiver interviews, standardized measures, and informal tools. Translating assessment results into IFSP and IEP goals will be demonstrated through case studies.	
Hearing Loss 101	03:09
This three-hour course covers basic information on hearing and hearing loss, methods used to test hearing, and technology options available for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. With the non-audiologist in mind, information is presented or explained in easy-to-understand language and terminology that avoids excessive professional jargon.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Augmentative & Alternative Communication Considerations for Children with Hearing Loss	00:53
This presentation will focus on practical strategies for integrating and implementing augmentative and alternative communication in classroom, home and therapy settings for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Strategies for supporting each aspect of the SCALES model for children who use AAC will be discussed.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Bimodal Hearing: Cochlear Implants and Hearing Aids in Opposite Ears	00:58
Many current cochlear implant recipients present with significant amounts of residual hearing and may not be candidates for bilateral implantation. Bimodal stimulation (use of a hearing aid in the non-implanted ear) is a means to provide access to potential bilateral cues and complementary acoustic cues that can enhance auditory performance. This session will discuss the potential benefits, challenges, approaches to fitting the hearing aid and other considerations with regard to bimodal stimulation.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Cochlear Implants in Complex Cases	01:22
Children with concerns that go beyond hearing sensitivity should be assessed by a multi-disciplinary team with the goal of determining realistic expectations and insuring that the parents have a thorough understanding of those expectations. Implant teams also need to develop tools for monitoring progress and measuring outcomes in these children who likely will not be able to participate in standardized tests of speech and language development.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Creating Literacy-Based Classrooms For Preschool Children Who Are Deaf Or Hard Of Hearing	00:51
Literacy and language development are an essential part of any preschool classroom. This presentation will describe how to uniquely apply literacy and language development teaching strategies when working with children who have hearing loss. Video examples from real preschool classrooms will be shared.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Documenting Auditory Outcomes In Children Who Are Hard Of Hearing	00:49
This presentation highlights the availability of auditory development questionnaires and speech recognition measures that can be used to document hearing aid benefit in children. The impact of aided audibility and hearing aid use as predictors of speech recognition and auditory development are highlighted. Strategies to maximize developmental outcomes for children who wear hearing aids will also be discussed.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Examination of Parent Talk & Other Auditory Sources of Input	
This presentation will explore what we know about relationships between the communication outcomes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the auditory input in their everyday environments. Auditory input can come from a variety of sources, including parent talk and television. Methods of assessing children's auditory environments using automated technology will be discussed. A case study will be presented to demonstrate how this technology can be utilized to coach parents to provide their children with optimal auditory environments.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Exploring Basic Questions of Communication Assessment for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	00:49
Evaluating, describing and interpreting communication of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing is a complex process that requires a comprehensive assessment approach. This presentation has two primary outcomes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To answer the basic questions of assessment for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.2. To introduce the components of a comprehensive assessment & planning framework developed by the Auditory Consultant Resource Network at Boys Town National Research Hospital.	

Nuts & Bolts Series: Genetic Counseling: What Is It and How Does It Benefit Families?	01:05
This presentation will explore the components of genetic counseling by highlighting practical and interesting examples and demonstrate the importance of gathering information through histories and a genetics physical examination. New technologies in the arsenal of genetics diagnostic tools will be summarized. Families' reactions will be illustrated through video clips.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Impact of Otitis Media on Children	00:32
This presentation will discuss the issue of middle ear dysfunction, which can involve the conductive part of the normal hearing mechanism. The participants will learn about different types of middle ear problems and how they can affect hearing sensitivity, tests of auditory function, hearing aid fittings and cochlear implant function.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Novel Approaches to Assessment of Children's Development	01:15
Wisely selected assessments can be essential tools for measuring progress, identifying children's strengths and needs, and ultimately guiding the intervention process. The purpose of this presentation will be to take a fresh look at the assessment process, and consider some tools that may be especially valuable in intervention planning. Several tools that have been used effectively with children who are deaf or hard of hearing will be discussed. Profiles of individual difference and their implications for intervention planning will be described. Some of these tools include vocal and speech development measures intended for use with infants and toddlers, a morphological elicitation task for preschoolers, and a narrative elicitation and analysis procedure for school age children. In addition, some practical, time-efficient methods for analyzing language samples will be described.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Optimizing Auditory Access Through Connectivity	00:57
Important findings from the multi-center, longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Loss (OCHL) research study show that auditory access—namely, hearing aid use and aided audibility over time—contribute to developmental outcomes for children who are hard of hearing. This presentation will focus on how audiologists and educational service providers can promote consistent hearing device use and optimize audibility through connectivity. Connectivity has the potential to positively impact outcomes by improving auditory access in a wide range of complex listening situations.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Orientation to Hearing Technology & Troubleshooting Basics for the Non-Audiologist	00:47
Hearing technology is recommended based on the type and degree of hearing loss. Different types of technology can be utilized to assist an individual with hearing loss and can include hearing aids, bone conduction implants, cochlear implants, and FM systems. This session will provide the participant with information about selection/candidacy criteria for each device, how these devices work, and what to look and listen for when hearing technology is not working.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Pediatric Aural Habilitation	01:12
Children who are deaf or hard of hearing often require specialized assessment and intervention strategies. This presentation provides an overview of aural rehabilitation services, skill areas addressed in therapy and the importance of therapy services to child outcomes. Speech perception measures are explained and how progress in listening skills can be tracked using the speech perception pyramid.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Pediatric Vestibular Assessment for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	00:43
Vestibular dysfunction has been found to be associated with hearing loss, developmental delay, and potentially with language learning. However, in spite of these associations, vestibular assessments are not routinely completed in all children who are deaf or hard of hearing.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Planning and Implementing a Listening Session	00:52
Professionals who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing are challenged to address developmental needs across multiple areas including speech, language and listening skills. This course will describe and demonstrate focused auditory teaching strategies for targeting auditory skills development. Embedded auditory teaching strategies will be discussed as tools for integrating auditory skill development into communication or academic development.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Pediatric Aural Habilitation	01:12
Often times in classrooms for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, hearing loss is not the only identified special need requiring attention in the classroom. This course will discuss practices to maximize student learning when a variety of needs are present, such as developmental delays, fine and gross motor challenges, behavioral issues, vision difficulties, and challenges with traditional modes of expressing language.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Preschool Educational Considerations When Hearing Loss is NOT the Primary Concern	00:52
Often times in classrooms for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, hearing loss is not the only identified special need requiring attention in the classroom. This course will discuss practices to maximize student learning when a variety of needs are present, such as developmental delays, fine and gross motor challenges, behavioral issues, vision difficulties, and challenges with traditional modes of expressing language.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Promoting Social-Cognitive Development in Children	00:57
During the preschool years, children advance in their ability to understand the beliefs, desires and feelings of others (theory of mind). This growing knowledge helps children predict others' actions/reactions and enables them to make sense of their social world.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Seeing Sounds: An Exploration of Cued Speech and Visual Phonics	00:42
This presentation will focus on tools to help make individual speech sounds visual. Cued Speech and Visual Phonics components and applications will be described. The differences in the two approaches will be explored along with demonstrations of each technique. Current research on Cued Speech and Visual Phonics will be provided.	
Nuts & Bolts Series: Supporting Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in the General Education Setting	2:26
Success in the general education setting requires a comprehensive understanding of the individual student as well as a strategic plan, intentionality, evidence-based practices, adaptability, and a positive attitude. Learning topics that will be covered include the general education setting, educational law, the students, important team members, typical hearing, hearing loss, technology, the classroom environment, how hearing loss impacts language and learning, as well as both auditory and visual instructional strategies.	

Nuts & Bolts Series: Teaching Social Interactions In Early Childhood Classrooms For Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

00:44

Children who are deaf or hard of hearing often require specialized assessment and intervention strategies. This presentation highlights ten family-centered practices for serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Specific aural habilitation strategies and assessment considerations will be discussed.

Nuts & Bolts Series: Through the Garden Gate: Pathways to Building Growing Partnerships

00:52

This course will discuss the tools used by parent infant specialists providing birth to age three intervention services in the home. Strategies, techniques and specific skills that educate and instill confidence in families will be demonstrated through video examples.

Nuts & Bolts Series: What We Can Learn from Speech Recognition Testing in Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

00:49

While the audiogram reveals the amount of hearing loss a child has, two children with the same audiogram can have very different outcomes in the real world. Speech recognition testing can provide clinicians with evidence about how hearing loss and intervention affect understanding. The use of speech recognition testing in quiet and background noise using stimuli across the linguistic continuum will be highlighted.

Nuts & Bolts: Vocal Development Assessment In Young Children With Hearing Loss

00:54

Children with hearing loss are at greater risk for delays in speech sound production including delayed babbling, reduced syllable shape/structure and slow transitions from babbling to word production. The goal of this presentation is to inform providers about typical vocal development patterns, identify red flags deviating from typical vocal behavior, and propose ways to efficiently assess and track development across time.

Unilateral Hearing Loss: Exploring Topics Integral to Care - 2016 Pediatric Audiology Conference

04:14

These four presentations were recorded at the 2016 Boys Town National Research Hospital's Pediatric Audiology Conference. The presentations explore current issues related to unilateral hearing loss throughout the continuum of care. Topics covered include: case management, amplification options and current research.

**Additional Courses
Coming Soon!**