

Cochlear Implants for Children with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss

Partners:

The Teaching Research Institute
Western Oregon University

Beach Center on Disability
University of Kansas

Midwest Ear Institute
St. Luke's Hospital

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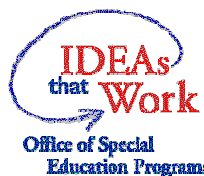
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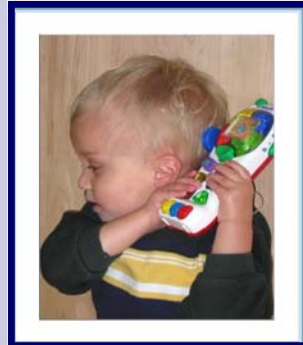
Website:

www.wou.edu/cidb

For more information about how your state deaf-blind project is involved, contact:



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Cochlear Implants for Children with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss

Information for Families

Research Project on Cochlear Implants for Children with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss

If your child has . . .

- a cochlear implant or is being considered for a cochlear implant,
- and a known or suspected vision impairment,

Then you can help us learn more

about the cochlear implant experiences of children with combined hearing and vision loss.

Many families struggle with the decision about whether to get a cochlear implant for their children. This decision is even more complicated when a child is blind or has a vision impairment. Very little research-based information exists about the benefits and challenges of cochlear implants for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and who have vision impairments. Your participation in this project will help other families to make more informed decisions about cochlear implants and follow-up training. The Outcomes for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind after Cochlear Implantation Project was funded by the US Department of Education to answer questions about the types of outcomes that may be achieved. These outcomes may include:



Sam using his cochlear implant to listen.

- **Identification of environmental sounds**
- **Identification of speech sounds and words**
- **Understanding of phrases and sentences**
- **Use of intelligible speech**

Neither the specific outcomes individual children might achieve, nor the time-frame in which accomplishments might be achieved is known at this time.

Tell Me More...

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

This project will look at the different ways that children who have both vision and hearing loss may be helped by having a cochlear implant.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

We are seeking two groups of children: (1) those for whom an implant is being seriously considered, and (2) those who already have an implant. Children must be between the earliest implant age and 13 years. Children who have other disabilities, in addition to hearing and vision loss, are eligible. The resources of a child's state deaf-blind project to conduct the assessments required for the study is also a factor in the selection process.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

A variety of assessments and questionnaires will be used to evaluate a child's listening, talking, and communication skills.

None of the assessments are medical procedures.

WHERE WILL THE ASSESSMENTS BE CONDUCTED?

State deaf-blind project personnel, who conduct the assessments, will come to your home, your child's school, or to any location in your community. This is the family's decision. You will not be asked to take your child to a different location.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

Staff from your state's deaf-blind project will ask you questions about your child's listening, talking, and communication skills and about the services your child receives to help develop these skills. You will also be asked to sign a permission form so that the project can get additional information from your child's implant facility.

WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF MY CHILD?

Most of the assessments are simple observations and parent reports. One assessment requires that your child respond to specific tasks. The staff will make sure that your child does not get tired from the assessments. All information is confidential.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?

The initial assessments will take

approximately 1 to 3 hours to complete depending on the skills of the child. Assessments for children who have just received an implant will be repeated 3 to 4 times over a 3-year period. These assessments should each take 1 to 2 hours. Assessments for children who have had an implant for a while will be repeated 1 to 2 times over the course of the project.

WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF MY CHILD'S TEACHER?

Some assessments may occur in the classroom. We will make sure that your child's teacher agrees to this and that assessment activities do not interfere with teaching and learning.

WILL I RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF MY CHILD'S ASSESSMENTS?

We will be happy to share the results of your child's assessments at your request.

WILL MY FAMILY BE PAID FOR OUR TIME?

You will receive \$100 for completing the first assessments and another \$100 after subsequent assessments have been completed.

WHAT IF WE WANT TO BE INVOLVED AND THEN DECIDE NOT TO HAVE THE IMPLANT?

After completing the first set of

assessments, you may quit at any time. If you decide not to get a cochlear implant for your child we would like to ask you questions about your decision. An understanding of the experiences of families that choose not to have an implant for their children may help other families make more informed decisions.

WHICH STATES ARE PARTICIPATING?

- Arizona
 - California
 - Connecticut
 - Delaware
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Illinois
 - Kansas
 - Kentucky
 - Maryland
 - Massachusetts
 - Minnesota
 - Missouri
 - Nebraska
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio
 - Oklahoma
 - Oregon
 - Pennsylvania
 - Texas
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