THE AEIOu PROJECT

What is AEIOu?

The Assessment of Early Intervention Outcomes, or AEIOu, project evaluates how young children who are deaf or hard of hearing are developing and how early intervention programs are serving these children’s needs.

Specifically, this project measures how children whose hearing loss was detected at a very early age are developing in the areas of communication and social development and the factors that contribute to positive outcomes. The project is coordinated by the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This research is part of a national research project called the National Early Childhood Assessment Project at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Who can participate?

Families with a child who is 11-14 months of age who is deaf or hard of hearing and receives 0-3 services from their County can participate.

How do families get involved?

Families are invited to participate by the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings staff as part of a follow-up phone call when the child is 11-14 months old. Families who are interested in participating receive a packet of information about the study and contact information for the project’s coordinator at the Waisman Center.

What do families have to do?

Families are given three developmental questionnaires to fill out about their child’s development. Families are also offered the opportunity to have a videotaped session of them interacting with their child. This video will be evaluated to identify the strengths and challenges in the parent-child interaction and the communication of both the parent and child. The family and their 0-3 agency will receive a summary of the videotaped interaction’s results. Families participate when their child is 11-14 months old and when their child is 30-36 months old.

What do 0-3 agencies have to do?

The Birth to 3 Interventionist completes an initial demographic form about the child and family (e.g., type and degree of hearing loss, communication modality, impact of the hearing loss on development, race and ethnicity, and SES), the services received (e.g., how often, type of service, and location of services) and about his/her education and experience related to providing services to young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition, the Birth to 3 agency provides a copy of the child’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
The Birth to 3 Program Director participates in an interview about the structure and capacity of the program to provide services to young children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The Program Director is also interviewed about barriers to providing services to these families, resources specific to serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing that the program accesses and resources that would be helpful.

**What is the goal of this project?**

This project will help us track developmental outcomes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the areas of general development, communication development and social development. It also helps us evaluate the services families receive and the child’s outcomes to better understand the variables that affect positive outcomes. In the future, we may be better able to understand and help parents and service providers meet the needs of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

For more information, contact the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program at 608-2679191