



A Multi-Center Longitudinal Study of Children with Mild to Severe Hearing Loss

Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska is fortunate to be involved in a multi-site, transdisciplinary research project focusing on outcomes of children with mild to severe hearing loss (of any type, as long as it is permanent). This study is being conducted in a 5-state area in collaboration with the University of Iowa and the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill. This is a five-year project, funded by the National Institutes on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Drs. Bruce Tomblin and Mary Pat Moeller are co-principal investigators.

We know that Audiologists and Speech Pathologists in Nebraska often are direct service providers for children with mild to severe hearing loss. We are requesting your support in making families aware of this unique research opportunity. We are looking for children in the age range from 6 months to 6 years 11 months who have been diagnosed with permanent, bilateral hearing loss. The children do not have to wear hearing aids (e.g., in the case of minimal hearing loss), but we are unable to accept children with cochlear implants into the study. Today's infants with hearing loss have access to universal newborn hearing screening, early intervention, and advances in amplification. There is an urgent need for research to assess how these innovations are affecting outcomes. Our goal is to gather data that will guide the management of this new generation of children. We are attempting to recruit a large sample (n = 400) across the five states (Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and North Carolina). We also are testing a comparison group of children with normal hearing.

The project will look at outcomes in the areas of speech, language, academic and psychosocial development for children with hearing loss. Families will be paid for their time at each visit (just one per year for three consecutive years). Most parents we have talked to are motivated to find out more about their child's progress. They appreciate the opportunity to receive diagnostic services at no charge to the family or school program. With parental permission, we will share all test results with the school system and interventionists.

For a project brochure: link to

For more information: www.uiowa.edu/~ochl/index.html

Or contact: Dr. Merry Spratford (402) 452-5054

Dr. Mary Pat Moeller (402) 452-5068

If you have questions about the rights of research subjects, please contact the Chairperson, Institutional Review Board, BTNRH, 402-498-6325 (402-498-6351 fax).