

A Listening and Spoken Language Approach for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Washington State

Listen and Talk
Spokane HOPE

SICC Meeting
February 20, 2024

Today's Topics

- Babies and Learning
- Hearing and Supports
- Communication thru Listening and Spoken Language
- Specialized Services and Agencies

Born Ready



Building Connections



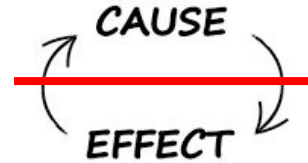
The Power of Hearing

- Hearing is a powerful tool through which we comprehend and engage with the world that lies beyond our immediate visual perception.



Impact of Hearing Level Differences within Families

- Interrupts learning opportunities for cause and effect



- Without sound, babies are often **surprised** by events others with access to sound **anticipate**



- Bonding and attachment are at risk.





Timing Matters!

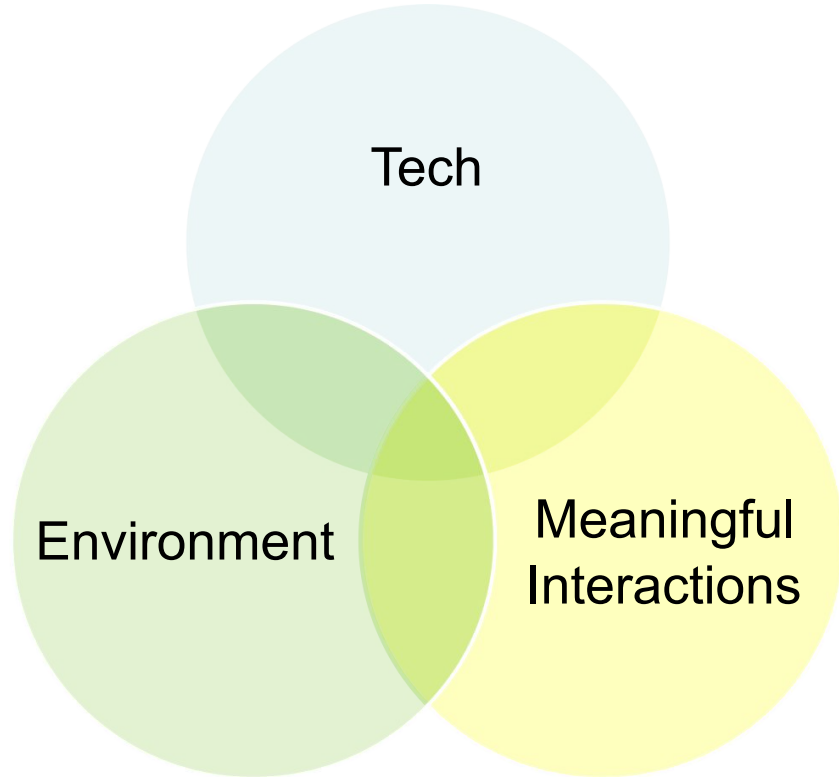
JCIH 2007	EHDI Benchmarks	JCIH 2019
1 month	Hearing Screening Outpatient Rescreen (if needed)	1 month
3 months	Diagnostic Hearing Evaluation by Audiologist Medical and Otologic Evaluation	2 months
6 months	Early Intervention Enrollment in Part C Services	3 months

Programs that currently meet the 1-3-6 benchmark goals should strive for a 1-2-3 timeline to further promote early access to optimal language and learning.

Families should be connected with pediatric audiologists for evaluations

Early Supports should be specialized for families and their children who are DHH

Supports for Children with Hearing Level Differences



- With the known barriers to access and communication, intentional family coaching supports meaningful interactions through the use of hearing technology in a family's natural environment.

Technological Advancements

- *Early access to the sounds of speech through optimally fit hearing technology is critical to a Listening and Spoken Language approach*



Critical Factors

- Three most critical hearing-related factors that influence auditory experiences for children with reduced levels of hearing

1. Speech audibility



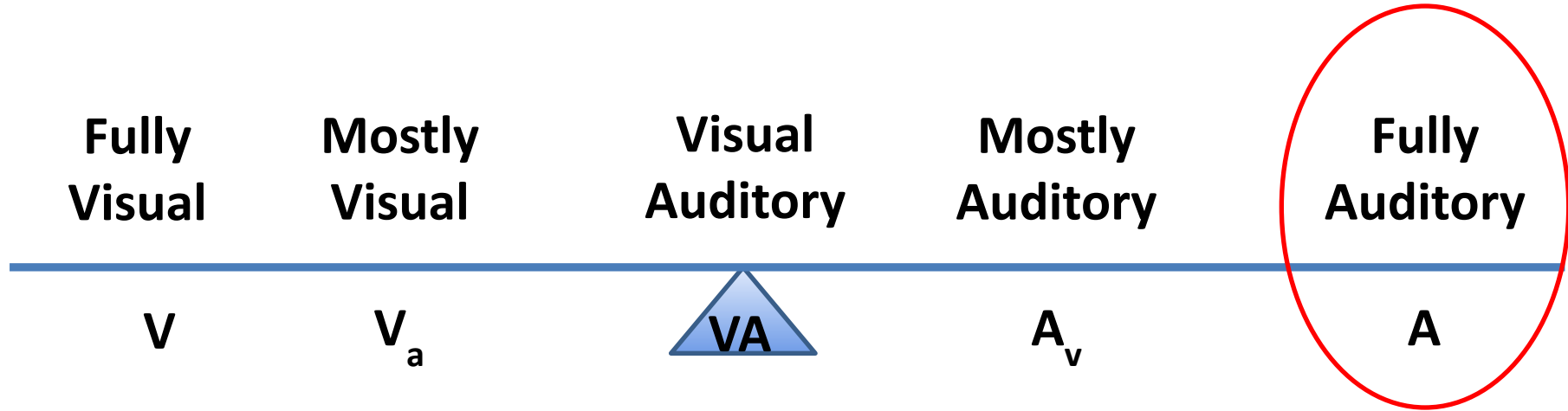
2. Technology use at least 10 hours per day



3. Quantity and quality of linguistic input from parents and caregivers



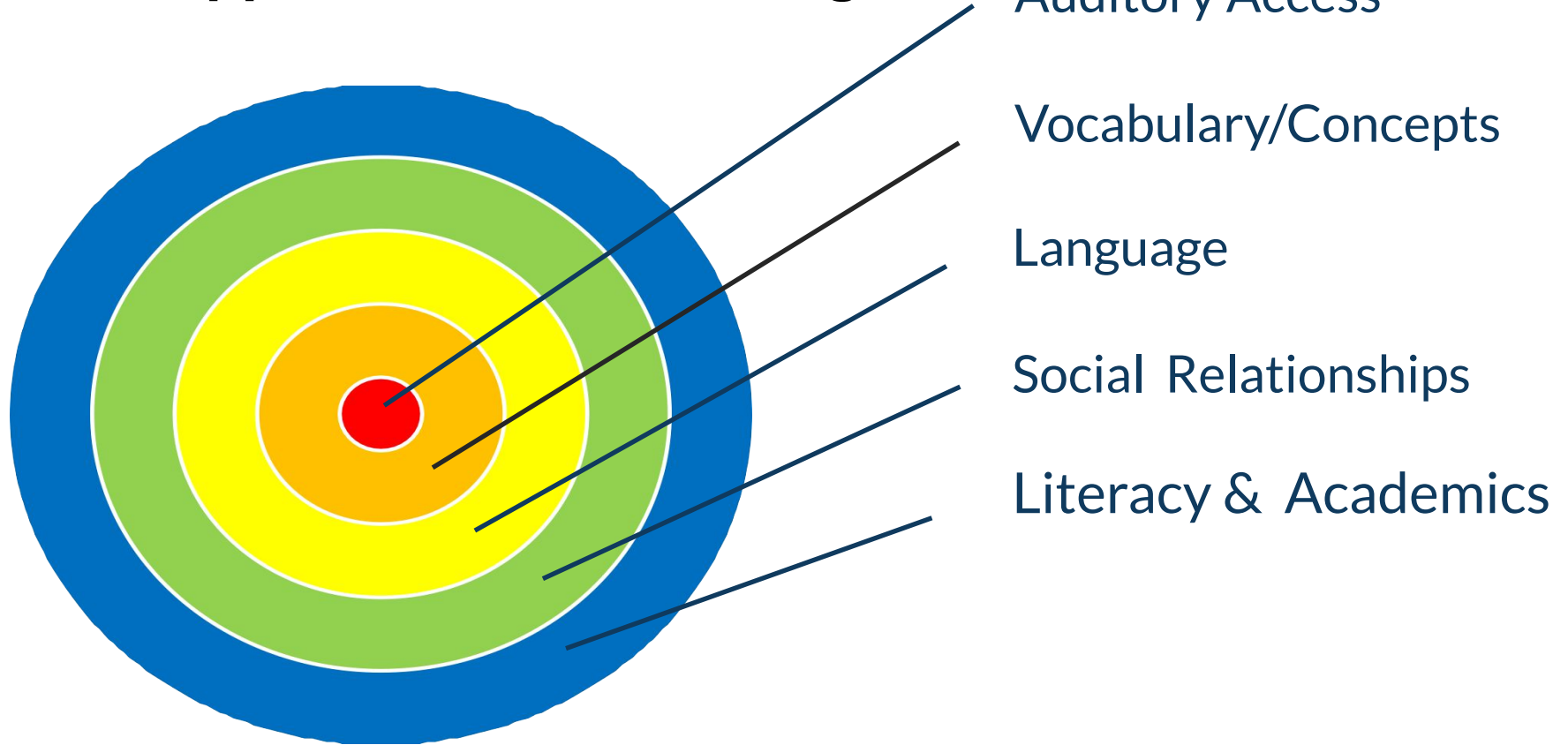
Communication Opportunities and Choices



What is a Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Approach?

- For children with reduced hearing levels, the Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) approach strives to ensure that children can thrive socially and academically.
- With the dedicated involvement of caregivers, paired with professional guidance, families navigate the intricacies of listening and language development.
- This team effort meticulously tailors strategies to each child's unique needs, paving the way for them to confidently engage with a world driven by communication and connection.

The Ripple Effect of Listening



LSL Techniques and Strategies

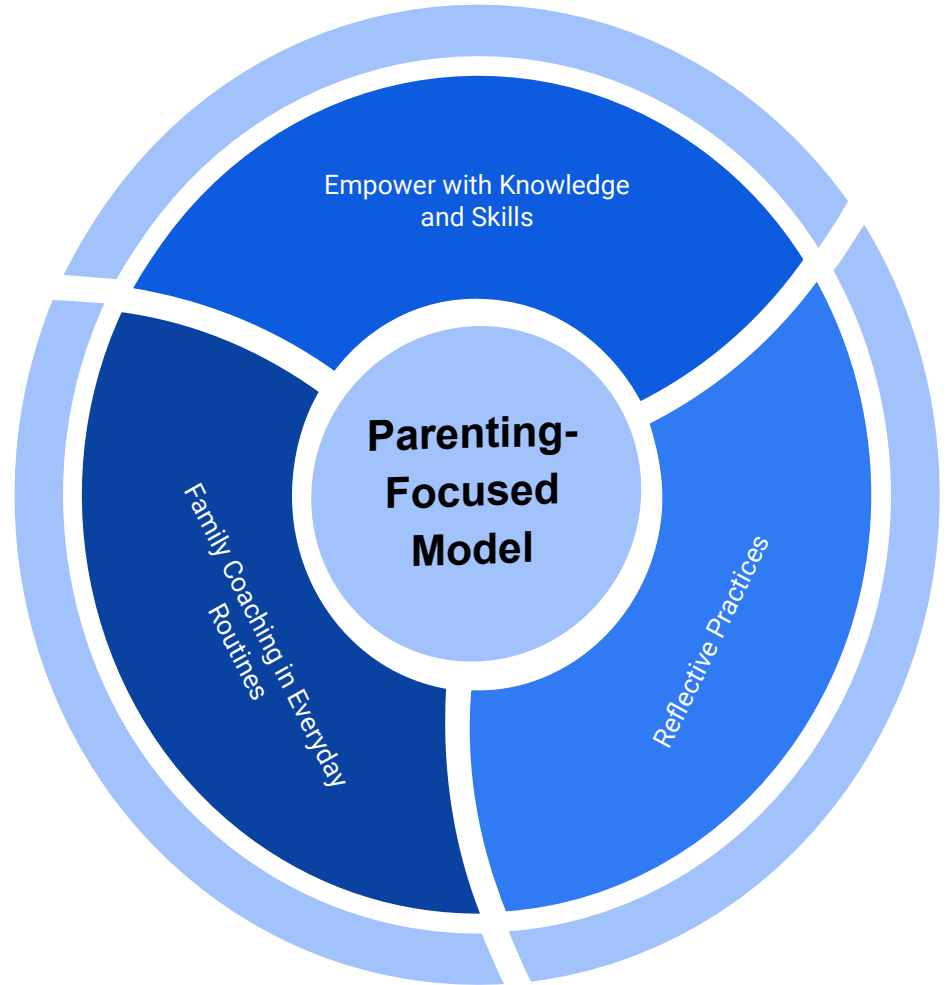
Early identification, advances in hearing technology, and enrolling early in programs like Listen and Talk and The Hope Spokane School allows almost all children with hearing level differences to access sound, learn to listen, and in turn, learn to communicate through listening and spoken language, using the same language their family speaks.

The Impact of Relying on a Family's First Language

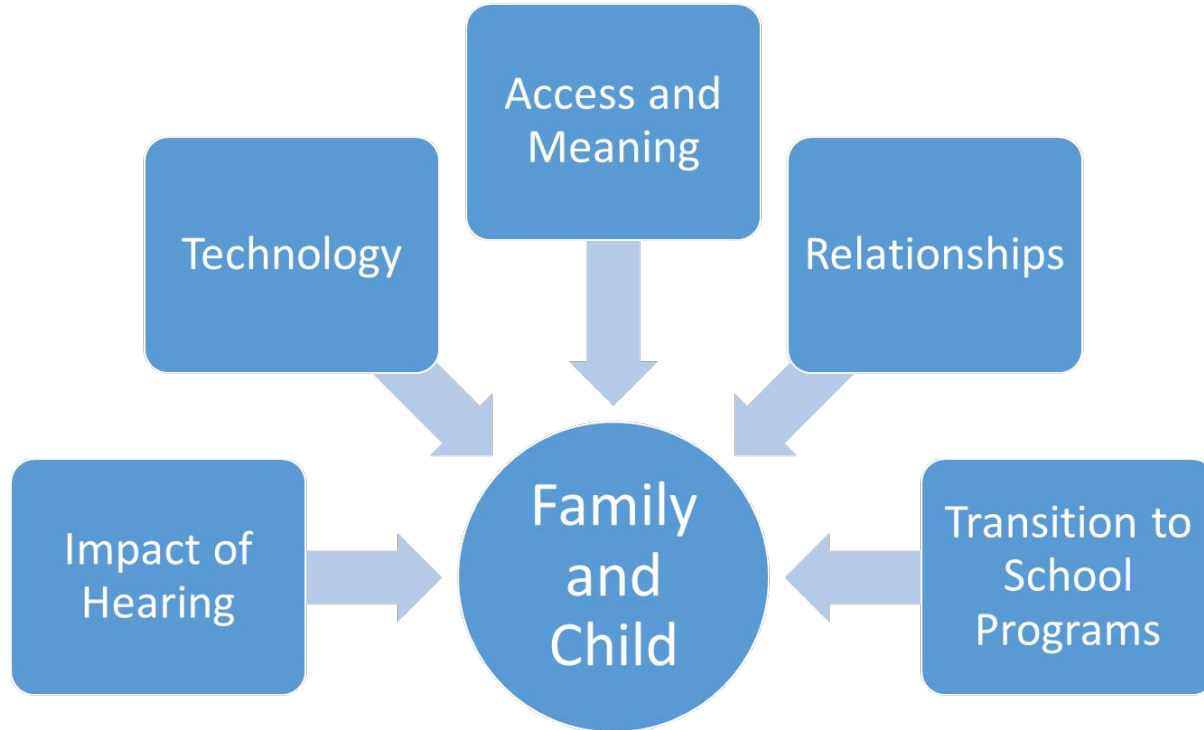
- Parents and caregivers model the language they are most at ease using
- Promotes confident and competent communication
- Strengthens family bonds
- Facilitates natural language acquisition
- Reflects cultural identity and heritage



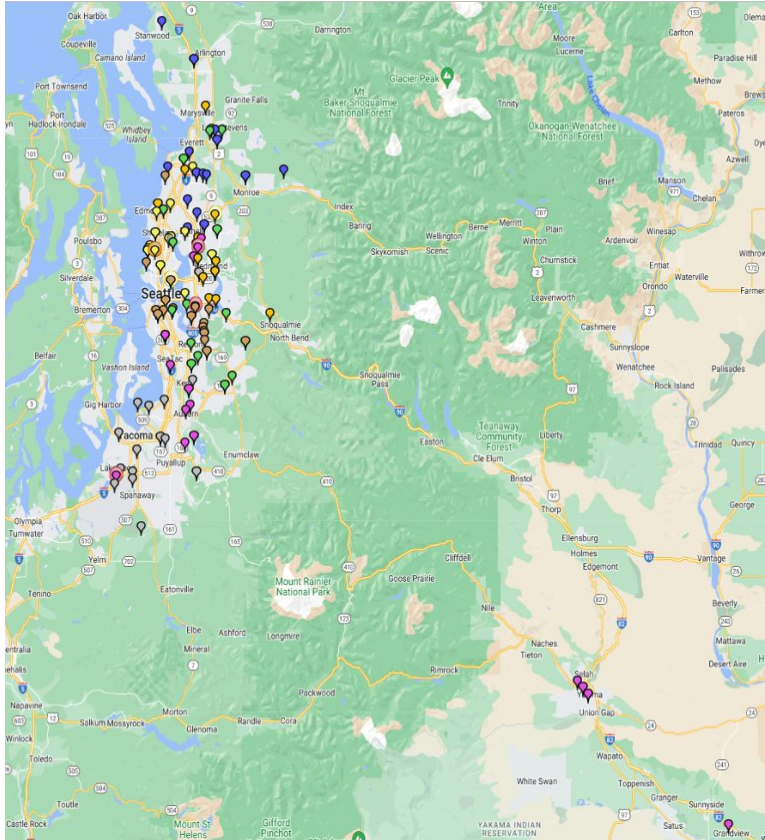
Building Caregiver Capacity and Confidence



How are DHH Services Unique?



Virtual Service Delivery



- There are a limited number of providers trained to support infants/toddlers with hearing level differences.
- A family's home address does *not* limit access to LSL programs.
- Virtual service delivery can effectively coach families.



**Mother: Quack!
Quack! Quack!**

Inter-Agency Connections

- Multiple agencies play crucial roles in supporting families and their children who are deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh).
 - Department of Health (EHDDI)
 - Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
 - Local Agencies like Listen and Talk and HOPE
 - Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY)
 - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Spokane HOPE Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Spokane County

Surrounding counties, ESD's, school districts, CDHY

In-person and teletherapy

Partner with Spokane Pediatric ENT

Early Intervention Services

The only DHH EI provider

Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

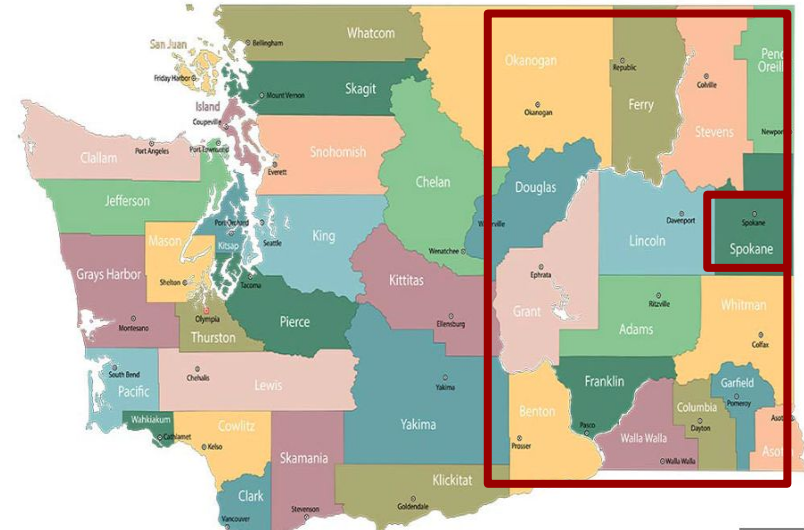
Toddler Group, site based

Transition assessments

Preschool

Listening and spoken language

School district contracts for IEP





Spokane HOPE Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Questions???

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