



Global  
Foundation  
For Children  
With Hearing Loss

Quỹ toàn cầu dành cho trẻ khiếm thính

# October 2011



We enjoyed working with all the participants this summer.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Teacher Training program is scheduled for July 9 – August 3, 2012. Be sure to mark your calendar!

The Global Foundation and Thuan An Center conducted another successful summer Teacher Training program this past July 2011. Here are the highlights from the month-long workshop:

- ▶ 38 schools for the deaf, 2 hospitals.
- ▶ 30 new hearing aids were fit on 15 Vietnamese children.
- ▶ 55 families in consultations and evening program.
- ▶ 4 webinar sessions between Vietnamese and American parents of children with hearing loss.
- ▶ 44 Vietnamese teachers from 35 schools for the Deaf in Level 1 training.
- ▶ 43 Vietnamese teachers from 35 schools for the Deaf in Level 2 training.
- ▶ 18 participants in the Audiology Training Program.
- ▶ 16 professionals in speech pathology, audiology, early intervention, and auditory-verbal deaf education from the US and Hong Kong.
- ▶ 8 Graduate students from the US and Hong Kong.
- ▶ 8 interpreters.
- ▶ 600 pages of translated material.

**The goal** of the Vietnam Deaf Education Program is to **empower teachers, families and medical teams** with the tools and expertise to help young children with hearing loss develop listening and spoken language skills.

## **AUDITORY ACCESS: Taking Care of the Hearing Aids**

**Written By: Martha Harney, M.S., CCC-A**

Over the summer we talked about how to make language accessible and meaningful for children. We want children to hear speech sounds and to hear them all day, every day. Consistent access to sound is the first step in helping children use their hearing to understand spoken language.

To help achieve this goal, a child's hearing aid should be checked daily. They may be too young to tell you when something is wrong. Checking the hearing aid daily can help you be sure the hearing aid is working well.

Checking the hearing aid can be part of the morning routine. When the child is very young, they will rely on you to take care of the hearing aids. However, as they get older they can help you with the daily check and eventually learn to detect problems themselves. A small battery tester may be available from the hearing aid seller or a local shop. Remember that batteries are toxic so if your child still likes to put things in their mouth, or if there are younger siblings in the house, do not leave batteries where a young child could reach them.

Daily maintenance to see how well the hearing aids are working includes the following steps:

1. Visual inspection
2. Listening check
3. Speech detection

### **VISUAL INSPECTION**

The Earmold:

- wipe the earmold with a damp cloth to remove wax or dirt; do not use alcohol
- check the earmold for ear wax and remove any wax with small tool called a 'wax loop'
- check the tubing for moisture
- check the earmold and tubing for cracks

The Hearing Aid:

- Check the hearing aids for cracks, broken switches
- Wipe off the hearing aid to remove skin oil and dirt. A small brush can be used to help remove dirt
- Check the battery compartment – is there evidence of corrosion (looks like white powder) or excessive moisture (looks brown)
- Check the batteries – you can obtain a small battery tester from the hearing aid seller or local shop. If you do not have a battery tester, you should hear feedback from the hearing aid when the battery is inserted
- Batteries are toxic so do not let small children put them in their mouth or swallow them.
- Store unused batteries in a cool, dry place (but not the refrigerator)

## **LISTENING CHECK**

To perform a listening check, you can obtain a listening tube or stetheset from your hearing aid dealer. Listen to your own voice using a normal volume and listen for:

1. The quality of the sound: The sound should be clear and continuous. You should not hear static or noise, and it should not cut in and out (intermittent).
2. Switch the hearing aid on and off: You should not hear static or noise when the hearing aid is switched on or off.
3. Is there a volume control? If so, adjust the volume control and make sure the volume is increasing and decreasing as you would expect. Many digital hearing aids do not have volume controls. If your child's hearing aids do not have volume controls and the settings are very loud, you will need to be careful when you put the listening tube in your ear. Ask your hearing aid seller for a listening tube with a filter to muffle the sound before you put the tube in your ears.
4. If the sound is lower than usual, if you hear noise or static or the sound cuts in and out, you should take the hearing aid to the hearing aid dispenser as the internal components may need repair.

## **SPEECH DETECTION**

Use speech sounds to listen to the hearing aid: ahh, ee, oo, sh, ss and mm. Use the same sounds when you put the hearing aid on your child. Record the sounds your child hears and at what distance. If your child is not able to do this as well as usual, it may indicate a problem with the hearing aids, or possibly a change in their hearing.

Parents should check the hearing aids in the morning before sending children to school. Teachers should be checking first thing in the morning when the child arrives at school to try and resolve any problems before the day begins. Therapists should be checking hearing aids before a session begins. We want those hearing aids to be working all day when all the great teaching is going on!

