Role of the SLP in Management of Very Young Children who receive Cochlear Implants

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The value of team in cochlear implantation has long been recognized.

Each team member has unique knowledge and skills to maximize outcomes.

Critical for each team member to provide current information on the outcomes possible today.
The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

~ Babe Ruth
Babies are Learners from Day 1
“Begin With the End in Mind”

Stephen Covey, “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”
Children with hearing loss cannot capitalize on the access to sound and spoken language without professionals who are knowledgeable and skilled in assessing and developing listening and speaking skills (Robbins, 2009)
Guidelines, technical reports, position statements and resources delineate broad areas of expertise and clinical competencies that SLPs should have in working with children with hearing loss (AG Bell, 2007; ASHA, 2004; Supplement to JCIH 2012).
Essential Knowledge
Hearing and Hearing Technology
Auditory Functioning
Spoken Language Communication
Child Development
Parent Guidance, Education & Support
Strategies for Listening and Spoken Language Development
History, Philosophy and Professional Issues
Education
Emergent Literacy
TOP 3 Ways
an SLP Maximizes Outcomes in Cochlear Implantation
Evaluate Child Functioning

Standardized & Criterion Referenced Assessments
Observation, Parent Reporting

- Auditory Skills
  - Receptive Language
  - Expressive Language
  - Articulation Skills
  - Fine/Gross Motor Skills

- Cognitive Skills
  - Adaptive Skills
  - Play Development
  - Reading Aloud/ Literacy
  - Child’s Disposition
Build Capacity in Families to Be Their Child’s First Teacher

- Continuity of care - sees the family weekly
- Intervention – teaching the child to listen
  Ongoing diagnostic therapy
- Equipping parents with strategies and techniques to create auditory living
- Parent Support and Education
- Connect Parents to Parents
Build Capacity in Families to Be Their Child’s First Teacher

Equipping parents with strategies and techniques to create auditory living in Daily, Play, and Social Routines

• Be a Director
• Point out Sound
• Audition First
• Narrate actions and thoughts
• Be a drama mama and a dramatic dad
• Talk, talk, talk, talk, talk…
Summary

member of the CI team, the SLP...

- Provides information on the child’s development in all areas
- Plans and implements ongoing diagnostic early intervention
- Supports and educates families
- Provides continuity of care
- Builds capacity in families to create auditory living
- Supports the team to maximize outcomes!
Always Continuous Improvement...Looking Ahead

The Trustees of the Oberkotter Foundation announced plans to create a professional learning center to deliver a comprehensive system of preparation and ongoing learning and support for professionals working with or on behalf of young children 0–5 who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

The center’s vision is to maximize the reach and power of 21st-century professional learning to enable striking outcomes with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.