

Project Fitme

Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Guam EHDI)



What is Guam EHDI-Fitme?

This project aims to work towards the Overall Program Goal to support the development of a statewide program and system of care that ensures that deaf or hard of hearing children are identified through newborn and infant hearing screening and receive evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention that optimize their language, literacy, and social-emotional development. Program goals are:

1. Increase health professionals' engagement within and knowledge of the EHDI system.
2. Improve access to early intervention services and language acquisition.
3. Improve family engagement, partnership, and leadership within the EHDI programs and systems.

Did you know that hearing loss is the number one birth defect?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hearing loss in newborns ranks number one.

Why is it important to identify hearing loss in children so early?

The earlier children with hearing loss are identified, the earlier early intervention services can be provided which in turn supports better outcomes for the children in terms of their language and cognitive development.

One of the targets that our system aims for is the 1-3-6 benchmark: screening of all infants born on Guam by 1 month; completion of a Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE) for infants who refer for follow-up screening by 3 months; and enrollment in early intervention services for infants with a hearing loss by 6 months.



What happens if a newborn does not pass their hearing screening?

Babies who do not pass their initial hearing screening are referred to have a re-screening by the Guam Early Intervention System.

If they do not pass this second screening, they are referred to an audiologist for a formal Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE).

If an infant is diagnosed with a hearing loss a comprehensive tracking and surveillance system known as Guam ChildLink-EHDI has been established to ensure that all infants receive appropriate follow up services.

What can health care providers do to help in identifying children with hearing loss?

You can help by asking parents/caregivers if they have any concerns about their child's hearing, speech and or language development, and if the infant has high risk factors for hearing loss at each well baby check-up.



Did you know that the Guam EHDI Project has facilitated universal newborn hearing screening on Guam since 2003?

Public Law 27-150, "The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act" was passed in December 2004.

Guam EHDI ensures that all babies born on Guam receive a hearing screening before they leave their birthing facility. Universal hearing screening is part of the standard of care at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA), Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center (SMBC), Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC), and the U.S. Naval Hospital.

How can I learn more about Guam EHDI Project Fitme?

Please visit our website: www.guamehdi.org

Contact us at 735-2466 for brochures and posters to share with families!

You can also find us on Facebook: Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention



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