

ASSESSING LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN NH CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (text); perstige/stock.adobe.com (icons). | GAO-25-106978

Introduction

The State of New Hampshire (NH) is the recipient of funding for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention State/Territory Program (Funding Opportunity Number: HRSA-24-036) through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

This funding is to expand beyond the newborn screening and strengthen current NH infrastructure for timely diagnostic tests, health professionals' engagement, increasing enrollment into early intervention services, capturing language acquisition and family engagement and leadership within the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Program system.

Project Goal

To evaluate current language assessments on deaf or hard of hearing children up to the age of three (3). Identify programs who conduct language assessments, identify which language assessment tools are used out in the communities, and evaluate the ability for the state to collect language outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing up the age of three (3).

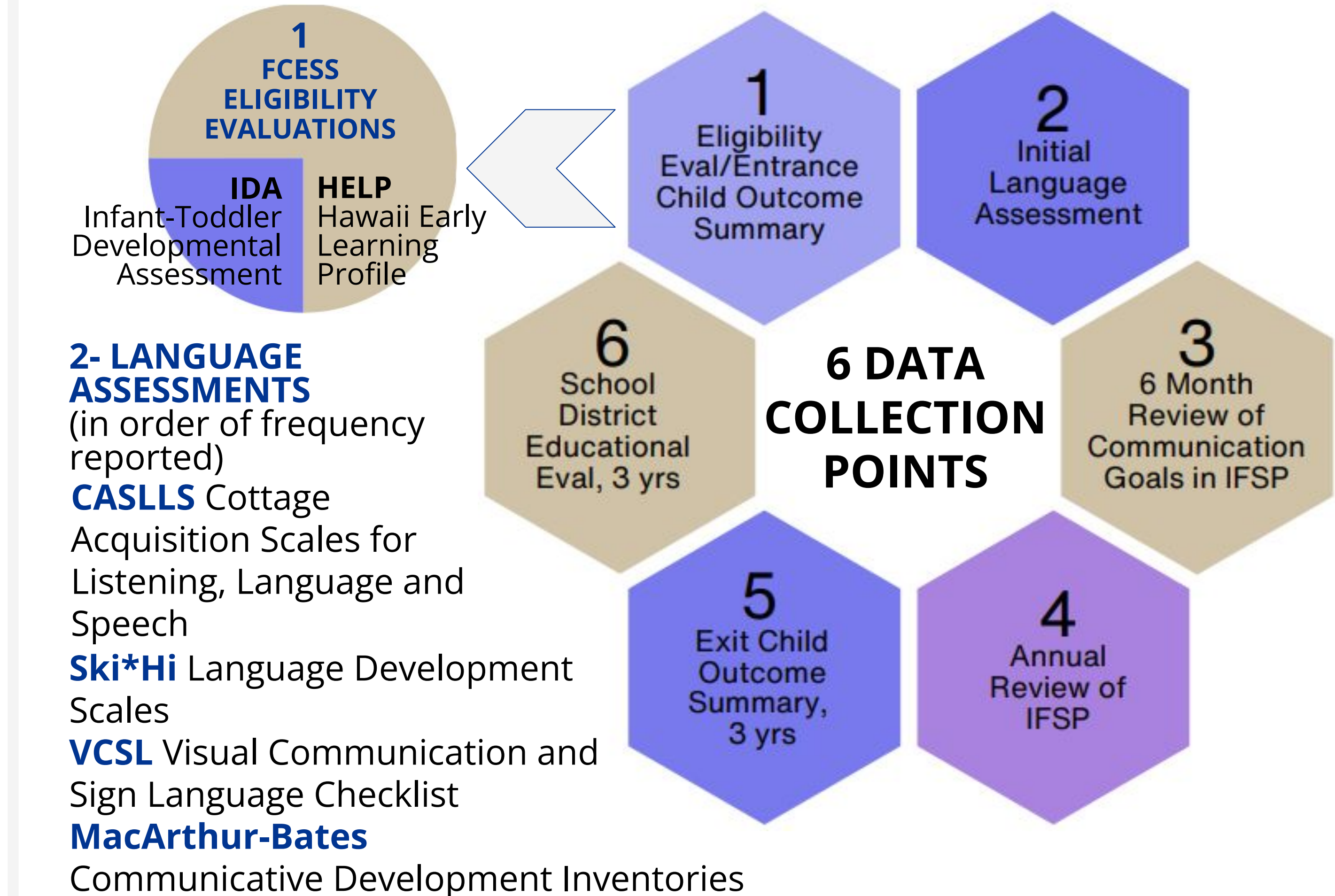
Activities

- 1 IDENTIFY** stakeholders in the provision of services
- 2 CONDUCT INTERVIEWS** with early intervention providers and Teachers of the Deaf
- 3 DOCUMENT** assessment methods

Areas of Focus

- Developing a survey for Family Centered Early Supports and Services (FCESS) providers designed to understand their intake and service delivery methods for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Creating a brochure to let providers know what to expect in the interviewing process
- Developing a list of Teachers of the Deaf in the State of New Hampshire
- Developing an interview designed to understand the methods by which service providers assess and deliver services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Participating in and presenting findings to the Language Acquisition Workgroup

Findings



Conclusions

- There is presently no uniform process for the EHDl Program to collect data on language acquisition in children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- There is presently no central repository or retention standard for language acquisition assessment results
- There is presently no infrastructure in the EHDl Program for reporting or sharing language acquisition assessment results
- There is presently no infrastructure in the EHDl Program data systems to compare or analyze assessment results

Next Steps

- Document which assessments were used for each child actively receiving services
- Utilize fields in NH's EHDl program database to begin collecting assessment types and dates
- Investigate whether the use of standardized testing would be beneficial

Who?
Division of Public Health Services
Maternal & Child Health Section
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDl)
mch@dhhs.nh.gov
603-271-1037

What?
10 minute phone conversation about the methods your organization utilizes to measure language acquisition in children birth-3 who experience hearing loss

Why?
The New Hampshire EHDl Program is the recipient of HRSA-24-036 funding to continue to build a comprehensive and coordinated statewide EHDl system. The EHDl Program began its work in newborn hearing screening in 2000, and over the past 23 years has concentrated on increasing the newborn hearing screening rate, timely diagnostic tests, health professionals' engagement, and increasing enrollment into early intervention services. As it moves into a new phase of its work, it is tasked with evaluating current language assessments on deaf and hard of hearing children up to the age of three (3).. **That's where you come in!**

When?
Initial Contact: 12/11-12/13
Target Completion: 12/20

Lisa Steadman, Student
NH-ME LEND Program

UNH

How does New Hampshire measure language acquisition in young children who experience hearing loss?

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