



*There are two lasting gifts we can give our children.
One is roots, the other is wings.*

Roots and Wings

Promoting Strong Foundations For Children With Hearing Loss

A Weekend Workshop for Nebraska Families with Children Ages Birth Through Two Years Who Have Recently Been Identified With A Hearing Loss

~ Mark Your Calendar ~

April 9-11, 2010

The Leadership Center in Aurora, Nebraska

Roots and Wings is a weekend experience designed for families of newly-identified children with hearing loss. It's goals are to offer an opportunity for families to learn about hearing loss, network with others, explore communication strategies and discover educational possibilities. Roots and Wings is founded on the following guiding principles:

- Respect that the child with hearing loss is, first and foremost, a child whose individual nature, strengths and learning style are to be celebrated.
- Honor each family's unique beliefs, traditions and strengths, as it is the family's right to incorporate these values into their decisions for their child.
- Empower the family by providing unbiased and up-to-date information to assist the family in promoting optimal social, emotional and educational development in their child.

This weekend workshop is offered at The Leadership Center. The Center is a relaxing conference site in Aurora, Nebraska, that provides families with comfortable lodging, home style meals, childcare and recreational activities. Parents of children with hearing loss, hearing specialists, researchers and community professionals will present on a variety of topics and provide supportive resources. Facilitators will invite parents to explore how they can create stable roots so that their children can develop strong wings for future success. Roots and Wings is open to all Nebraska parents of infants under 3 years of age with a hearing loss.

The Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has funded this weekend. It has been offered to families at no cost through the collaborative efforts of the Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program and Boys Town National Research Hospital.



Speakers:

Keynote Speaker:

Stephanie Olson, B.A.

Stephanie Olson works as a Family Consultant for the Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing at the Children's Hospital of Denver and the Colorado Home Intervention Program. She draws from her experiences as a hard-of-hearing woman. With degrees in special education and social work, Stephanie's background as a preschool director and as a teacher for students with special needs has helped her to develop positive relationships with those she serves. She also works with families and children from birth to three through the Colorado Home Intervention Program. In 2008, Ms. Olson participated in a medical mission through Soaring Hope, Inc., working with children in residential Deaf schools in Northern China. During 2009, she was part of a team from Children's Hospital in Denver that traveled to London, South Africa, Brazil and New Zealand and presented on best practices for addressing auditory neuropathy. Stephanie was identified with a hearing loss at the age of three, using hearing aids for most of her life. She received a cochlear implant in 2006. In her presentations and her work, Stephanie brings her unique perspective which has been shared with parents and professionals nationally and internationally.

Featured Speakers:

Mary Pat Moeller, Ph.D.

Mary Pat Moeller is the Director of the Center for Childhood Deafness at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. After many years of working with families of children with hearing loss, she obtained a Ph.D. in child language at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Her research interests include early word learning in children with hearing loss. She is currently studying the outcomes of children who are hard of hearing, in collaboration with the University of Iowa and the University of North Carolina. She also is involved with colleagues at Boys Town in dissemination of information on newborn hearing screening to physicians and parents (www.babyhearing.org). Dr. Moeller has published and lectured widely on topics related to early intervention and developmental outcomes.

Cathy Carotta, Ed.D.

Catherine Carotta is the Associate Director of the Center for Childhood Deafness at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She is a licensed speech-language pathologist with many years of experience in the assessment and education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing using sign and spoken language modalities. Dr. Carotta has worked with children with cochlear implants since 1985, where she first served as a speech pathologist on Indiana University's Cochlear Implant Team. She served as the Education Director at Louisville Deaf Oral School, a dual-track school, offering spoken language and signed education to children from birth to eight years of age. With expertise in leadership education, she has actively worked to create learning organizations using current leadership models. She provides national consultation regarding establishing best educational practices for students with hearing loss.

Jeff Simmons, M.A.

Jeff Simmons is an audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, where he has been on staff since receiving his Master's degree in 1996 from the University of Northern Colorado. His duties include newborn hearing screening, audiology diagnostic testing and fitting of hearing aids and cochlear implants with both pediatric and adult populations. He is presently Coordinator of the Cochlear Implant Clinic in the Lied Learning and Technology Center at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Jeff has published and presented nationally in the areas of cochlear implants, pediatric amplification, newborn hearing screening and auditory neuropathy/dys-synchrony.

Teresa McEvoy, B.S.

Teresa McEvoy is a Continuing Education Specialist at Boys Town National Research Hospital, in the Center for Childhood Deafness. Teresa provides educational advisement for parents of children with hearing loss, as well as agency advisement regarding family-centered practices. In addition to organizing and developing continuing education workshops and parent education opportunities, Teresa is the Coordinator of the EIPA Written Test. On a personal note, she is the parent of three children who are deaf, ranging in age from 8-18 years. Teresa was instrumental in establishing a Hands & Voices Chapter in Nebraska and serves on Nebraska's Parent Information and Training Board.

Schedule:

Friday, April 9

2:00 – 4:30

Check-in, Registration and Exhibition Opens

5:00 – 5:45

Dinner

6:00 – 7:30

Keynote Session: Half Way Between Roots and Wings... - Stephanie Olson, B.A.

Finding your way back home after the diagnosis of a hearing loss can be difficult. How can parents feel at home with hearing loss or deafness? Are there maps, guidebooks, or is there a crystal ball to help parents see where they are going on this journey? Parents will have the opportunity to hear personal perspectives and stories from Stephanie Olson, a deaf/hard-of-hearing adult. Ms. Olson's stories will show us how her desire for knowledge and connections, as well as her ability to have fun have guided and nurtured her on this journey.

7:45 – 8:45

Family Ice Cream Social

Saturday, April 10

7:00 - 7:45

Breakfast

8:00 - 9:00

Parents the Language Partners - Mary Pat Moeller, Ph.D.

Young children with hearing loss benefit when their families become "language partners." This means that parents and others build a language rich environment during everyday routines. This workshop will provide practical tools for accomplishing this goal. Examples of families using a variety of approaches will be shared.

9:00 - 10:30

Planting the Seeds of Communication - Mary Pat Moeller, Ph.D., Teresa McEvoy, B.S., Cathy Carotta, Ed.D.

There are many different approaches for communicating with a young child who is deaf or hard of hearing. You may have discovered that some people have strong opinions about one approach or another... and you may have wondered if there is one best approach. This session will be a bit of "show and tell." You will see video clips of different communication strategies in action so that you can become familiar with them. The presenters will lead the group in a discussion of the approaches and what they require of families who use them. The value of matching the approach to the child's learning needs will be emphasized. Factors to keep in mind during decision making will be explored.

10:30 - 11:00

Break

11:00 - 12:00

I Hear Fine, but Everyone Mumbles: Introduction to Hearing Loss - Jeff Simmons, M.A.

A brief overview of the auditory system, technology and how the ear is structured and processes sound. Types, degrees and causes of hearing loss will be discussed.

12:00-12:45

Lunch

1:00 -1:45

Family Stories: Pearls of Wisdom

2:00 - 4:15

Small Group Conversations: Parents will be able to join 3 of the 5 following conversations:

- Is This a Deaf Thing? Unique Considerations for Parents
- The Parent Factor: Taking Care of Mom and Dad
- Raising a Child with Multiple Health Challenges
- Growing Up with a Hearing Loss: An Adult Perspective
- For Men Only

4:15 - 5:00

Family Stories: Pearls of Wisdom

5:00 - 6:00

Dinner

6:00 - 8:00

Family Carnival

Sunday, April 11

7:00-7:45

Breakfast

8:00-8:45

Family Stories: Pearls of Wisdom

8:45-10:00

Feathering the Nest - Stephanie Olson, B.A.

A bird is safe in a nest, but it is not where a bird is meant to stay. What are some of the tools that will help parents create a safe haven for their children with hearing loss? Stephanie will give parents a glimpse at what other deaf and hard-of-hearing adults have said about what their parents did right or what the best things were about their "nests" while growing up.

10:00-10:30

Break

10:30-12:00

Teen Panel

12:00

Departure

Event Information:

The Leadership Center:

The Leadership Center is a conference center situated in rural Nebraska. The Center provides home style meals, comfortable lodging, and a variety of family recreational activities including: indoor swimming, hot tub, sauna, indoor volleyball, ping-pong, paddle boats and catch-release fishing. **For more information: <http://www.tlcaurora.org>, or call (402) 694-3934.**

Directions:

The Leadership Center, is located at 1609 E. Hwy 34, Aurora, Nebraska. From I-80 take the Aurora exit (mile maker 332). Turn north on Hwy 14 and proceed through Aurora to the intersection of Hwy 14-34. Turn east on Hwy 34. Proceed ½ mile and turn north into facility.

Parent Participation:

The greatest benefit from Roots and Wings occurs when both parents and caregivers attend together. We understand that sometimes it is difficult for both parents to attend or that you may be a single parent. If two parents cannot attend, registration will be accepted for another significant family member or friend. No more than two adults can attend per family, and adults registering for this event are expected to attend all sessions.

Cancellation Policy:

Once you have registered for Roots and Wings, Nebraska Health and Human Services EHDI Program will financially commit to pay for rooms and meals. **If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending, please notify us at (402) 452-5042 immediately, so we can cancel your reservation and allow others to attend.**

Child Care:

Child care will be available on site for children birth through twelve. Please make alternative arrangements for any children over twelve years of age.

Dress:

Dress for the entire conference is casual. Swimsuits and hiking boots or outdoor footwear may be needed, depending on your activity.

Lodging and Registration:

Registration, lodging, meals and child care are paid for by the Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Center. Reservations for lodging are handled by completing the registration form on the next page.



***Registration is required.
Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 19, 2010.***

To register for Roots and Wings go to:
www.boystownhospital.org/hospitalforms/RootsandWings.aspx
or fax registration form to Teresa McEvoy at (402) 452-5028.

For more information: Teresa McEvoy at (402) 452-5042 or teresa.mcevoy@boystown.org

~ REGISTRATION ~
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Registration Deadline: March 19, 2010

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

1st Adult :

First Name _____ Last Name _____

2nd Adult:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hearing Loss?</u>	<u>Is This Child Attending?</u>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I give permission for my contact information to be shared with other participants.

- Special Requests:**
- I need a sign language interpreter. ASL SEE
 - I need a foreign language interpreter. Please specify language: _____
 - I need an assistive device for my hotel room (smoke alarm).

Email, FAX or Mail Registration Form To:

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Center for Childhood Deafness
555 N. 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68131
Attn: Teresa McEvoy

Email: teresa.mcevoy@boytown.org
Fax: (402) 452-5028

