



Outcomes Project Update

December 2006

Issue 1

This is the first newsletter from the Outcomes Project team at the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL). We'd like to say a big thank you to you for taking part in this world-first research project. In this newsletter, you'll find out how the project's progressing and you'll meet members of the team working on this project. You'll also find out more about the assessments we use and what they mean. In addition, there are tips from our audiologists and speech pathologists, and a mailbag where you can ask questions, share your experiences, or tell us what you would like to know.



Phoenix Rose-Mundy and father Gavin look at the DEAP (Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation & Phonology) pictures with speech pathologist Kate Crowe (right) at NAL at Chatswood.

Meet the NAL Team



The Sydney NAL team (left to right) Leanne Skinner, Teresa Ching, Emma van Wanrooy & Kate Crowe

We would like to introduce you to the Sydney based NAL team. Dr Teresa Ching is a Senior Research Scientist at NAL and the leader of the outcomes project. Teresa has worked at NAL for many years and is very experienced in working with children with hearing loss. Emma van Wanrooy is a Research Paediatric Audiologist, Kate Crowe is a Research Speech Pathologist, and Leanne Skinner has dual qualifications in audiology and speech pathology. The NAL office itself is located amongst bushland just outside of the Chatswood CBD.

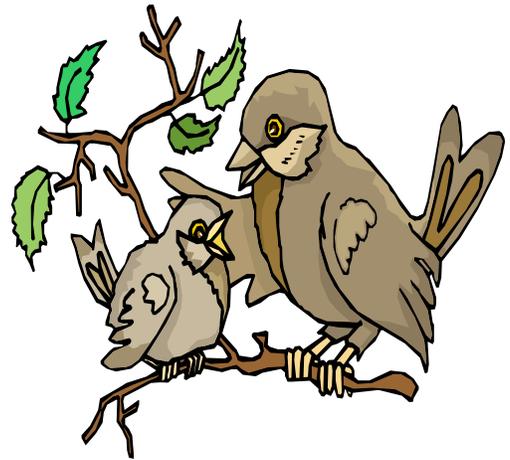
PEACH

No ... not the fruit!

The Parents' Evaluation of Aural/Oral Performance of Children

The PEACH is a diary kept by parents about how children are using their listening in everyday life. There are questions asking how children are listening when it's quiet or noisy, listening to sounds around them and on the phone and many more. First, parents write down examples of their children's behaviour in the diary, then they discuss their examples with a researcher. The PEACH is scored on the number of examples and so the more examples the better!

We know that completing a PEACH diary takes attention, time and it is extra work but it gives you and us lots of very useful information about your child's hearing. You get to know how your child's listening skills develop over time. Your child's audiologist can also get information about how your child's hearing aid settings or cochlear implant MAP is working in different listening situations. This information is useful for guiding audiological management of your child.



Thanks for helping us by completing PEACH diaries.

A sample PEACH item:

4. You are in a quiet place with your child. When you ask him a simple question or to do a simple task does he respond the first time you ask?

- *I was sitting next to Will and said "Daddy's home" and he looked towards the front door.*
- *Will's brother called "Come here William" and Will crawled to him.*
- *Will was trying to climb up the lounge. I said "STOP!" and he stopped.*
- *I said "Where's your nose" and Will pointed to his nose.*
- *I called "Dinner's ready". Will was playing with his cars and he did not turn around.*
- *Will was hiding behind the chair. My dad said "Where's Will?" and Will giggled.*



Activity Page



The theme for this newsletter is 'FROGS'. We have lots of ideas of the fun and games you can get up to with frogs. Here are some activities for the whole family to share and enjoy. There are lots of different speech and language goals you can incorporate into these activities to suit children of all ages.

In the kitchen ...

- ★ Make froggy cupcakes using green icing, smarties for eyes and pieces of red snakes for the mouth
- ★ Make green slime jelly



Craft and Play

Use frogs of different sizes, colours and textures (e.g. cotton wool, aluminium foil, greaseproof paper, scourers, bubble wrap etc) in these activities.

- ★ Attach metal paperclips to the frogs and a magnet to a piece of string. Play fishing by catching the frogs.
- ★ Play a game of memory using pairs of the frogs
- ★ Make a collage scene with the different frogs
 - ★ Play hide and seek "find the big red frog"
 - ★ Make a book out of the different frogs
 - ★ Make a counting book with your frogs
 - ★ Make a mobile from different frogs

For older children ...

Learn some simple facts about frogs

What do frogs eat?

Where do frogs live?

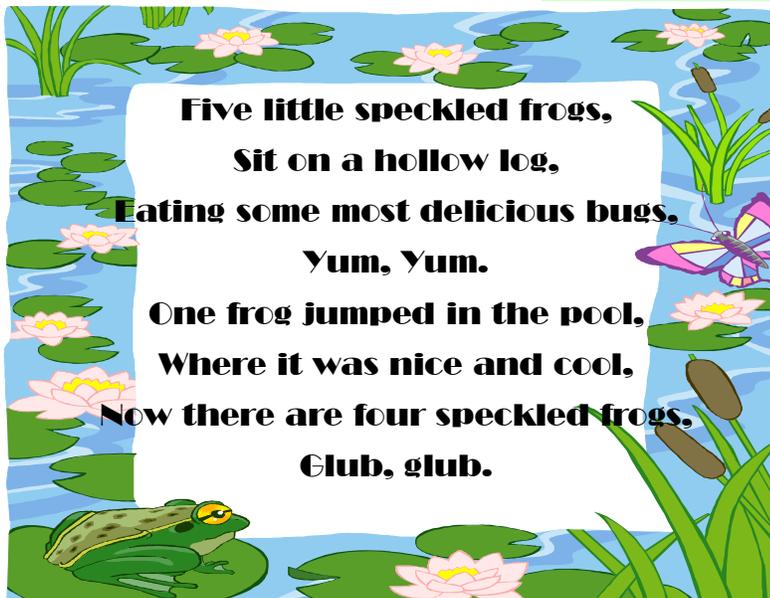
What 's a tadpole?

What noises do frogs make?

Here's a joke for all the older brothers and sisters ...

Q. What did the frog say to the fly?

A. "You are really starting to *bug* me"



Here is a tip from your NAL Audiologists !!!



Never leave your batteries in your hearing aid or cochlear implant when you place it in the dry-aid kit. Removing batteries keeps batteries fresh, reduces the chance of battery corrosion and allows thorough airing.

MAILBAG

Q. What happens if my child's hearing aids need adjusting and the NAL audiologist is not available? Can the AH audiologist change the settings?

A. Yes, of course. Your child's AH audiologist will make adjustments as needed, for example, if feedback is occurring or if there is a change in hearing. The NAL audiologist is notified of all changes.



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