Greetings!!!

As we enter the fall of 2011, we want to say thank you to all of our clients, friends and professional associates for making this year one to remember. Without you, there would be no Speech & Hearing Center. We know you have other choices for your hearing healthcare, hearing aid and speech and language needs, and appreciate your continued trust.

The highest compliment our clients can give us is to recommend us to a friend. We thank all of you for the referrals to our Center.

Did You Know We Offered…

Hearing Evaluations for Children? Using an unhurried team approach, we can determine your child’s hearing abilities.

Programming for Cochlear Americas Implants? For all models of the Cochlear Americas systems.

Speech & Language Evaluations for Children? For parents who have concerns about their child’s speech and language development.

Speech & Language Therapy Groups for Children? We are looking for children to join our preschool, language or social groups for the 2012 spring semester.

Save the Date!! – FREE SEMINAR

October 21, 2011    From 11:00 – 12:00 am

The expected useful life of a hearing aid is approximately 5 years. If your hearing aid is beyond its lifespan, it is a good idea to explore what the latest technology has to offer. Please join us for a free information session to learn about the latest advances in hearing aid technology.
News

We are excited to introduce four new members of the GWU Speech & Hearing Center team – Andrew Cheng, Kari Comer, Jodi Kumar and Geoffrey Greenman. Andrew is our new Executive Aide. Kari Comer and Jodi Kumar are the new Pediatric Clinical Supervisors and Geoffrey Greenman is the new Accent Modification and Augmentative Communication Supervisor. A warm welcome to each of you.

Andrew Cheng

Andrew hails from Chicago, the Windy City. He most recently worked at a high-intensity public institution providing excellent customer service to those visiting. He also has also made significant strides in redefining front office management. He has already improved numerous Center policies and is in the process of streamlining our procedures to improve the experience of all those who visit the Center.

Kari Comer

Kari relocated from Birmingham, AL, where she most recently worked in a public preschool. After graduating from The University of Alabama, Kari worked in a variety of settings including home health, inpatient and outpatient hospital settings, and public schools around the southeast. She is certified in Compton P-ESL and VitalStim. Areas of interest include language, development, accent reduction, acquired language disorders, and voice. She will be supervising the Pediatric Language and Literacy (PLL) track.

Jodi Kumar

Jodi comes to us from Oregon where she worked as a pediatric therapist on Salem Hospital’s outpatient neuromuscular team. She has worked in a variety of health care settings including home and community support and outpatient, inpatient and acute care across the country and internationally. She is passionate about working with individuals with brain injury across the lifespan. She is also Level 2 PROMPT trained. Additional areas of interest include motor speech disorders and pediatric feeding/swallowing. She will be supervising the Pediatric Speech and Motor Speech Disorders (PSD) track and assisting with the Neuro-communication Disorders track.

Geoffrey Greenman

Geoffrey most recently worked for the Fairfax County Public Schools. While at FCPS, Geoffrey worked at the elementary and high school levels, while also providing therapy to students in Fairfax County’s enhanced autism program. He has also worked for a pediatric private practice, facilitating social communication groups. Geoffrey is Level 2 PROMPT trained, and is a Compton P-ESL certified instructor. He will be supervising our Communication Enhancement of Pediatrics and Adults (CEPA) track.
All About Hearing Aid Batteries

How are the Different Sizes Labeled and How Long do they Last?

All batteries are color-coded to help you remember which ones you need. Sometimes there are letters or numbers after the main size indicator. This is not important, as different companies label their packaging differently. All batteries for hearing aids, however, should have 1.4 volts. How long they last depends on the number of hours used in a day and if the listening environment is quiet or noisy (the batteries will deplete faster in noise).

To monitor the length of time your batteries last, place the tab/sticker on a calendar marking the day you changed the battery. When the battery dies, see how many days the battery lasted. Do this on a regular basis, as it will also help you know if your hearing aid is functioning well. For example, if your size 312 battery usually lasts 9 days and then is suddenly lasting only 3 days, check to make sure there is no wax blocking the sound outlet of the hearing aid. If it is clear, call your Audiologist for a hearing aid appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Tab/Sticker</th>
<th>Lasts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size 10</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>3-5 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 312</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>7-9 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 13</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>10-14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 675</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>14-16 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zinc Air Batteries

Most batteries sold today for hearing aids are Zinc Air batteries. The Zinc is the chemical that provides the power to the battery. Once the sticker or tab is removed from the battery, Air enters the internal compartment of the battery and mixes with the Zinc. Once the Air and the Zinc mix, the battery becomes activated. The battery cannot become “deactivated” by replacing the tab/sticker onto the battery. Therefore, do not remove the tab on a battery until you need it. Also, all battery packages have an expiration date on them. Make sure you do not buy new packages of batteries ready to expire.

Green Batteries

There are now “Green” batteries on the market that are Mercury Free. This is great for the environment, but make sure that there is enough power in the battery to allow your hearing aid to function effectively. Check on the package of batteries for the voltage – it should say 1.4 V. If it does not, your hearing aid will not work as effectively and the battery will quickly die.
How to Store Batteries

It is best to store your batteries in a cool dry place. There is no need to refrigerate batteries. Batteries have a magnetic quality to them – if they touch one another, they may begin to discharge, therefore keep them separate when being stored. Even used or dead batteries can cause a new battery to discharge. Additionally, do not store batteries in anything metal. Keep the batteries in the case in which you purchased them, or keep them in a divided battery holder. Additionally, do not store them in a car on a hot day. The glue that holds the sticker/tab on the battery may become weakened by the heat and slide off of the battery, allowing air to enter the battery. Once the battery is exposed to cooler air, the glue “re-harden” and sticks back on to the battery. When that battery is placed in a hearing aid, it might not last as long as one that has not been subjected to a drastic change in temperature.

What to do with Dead Batteries

When a battery dies, keep it separate from the fresh battery supply. The batteries should be recycled to reduce the amount of Mercury entering the ground water system. Several places recycle batteries – the GWU Speech & Hearing Center, most Best Buy stores and Radio Shack. Feel free to bring the dead batteries to any of these facilities.

Battery Warnings

Hearing aid batteries are toxic if swallowed, for both humans and animals. If someone accidentally swallows a hearing aid battery, immediately contact the National Poison Control Center at (800) 456-7707. Then go immediately to the Emergency Room and inform them of the situation.
What is new in the Pediatrics Department of the Center?

The two pediatric tracks are changing to accommodate the needs of the Center. Our Pediatric Language and Literacy (PLL) track will cover the needs of our clients with language disorders, literacy disorders, and pervasive developmental disorders. We are excited to announce the addition of preschool, language and social group to the track that will allow our graduate clinicians gain experience in group intervention. Our Pediatric Speech and Motor Speech Disorders track will serve clients with speech sound disorders (articulation and phonological processing), motor speech disorders (apraxia and dysarthria), cleft palate and oral motor deficits.

We would LOVE to hear from you...

If there are any questions you would like addressed in future issues of the Clinic Update, please contact the Clinic Executive Aide, Andrew Cheng at 202-994-7360 or via email at achengl@gwu.edu. He will pass the message along to the Clinic Update team and we will respond in the next issue. Happy Fall and we look forward to seeing you throughout the year!!

Directory

Michael Bamdad, MA, CCC-SLP – Neuro-communication Supervisor & Clinic Director
Melanie Moriarty Birck, MS, CCC-A – Audiologist
Andrew Cheng – Executive Aide
Kari Comer, MS, CCC-SLP – Pediatric Supervisor
Geoffrey Greenman, MA, CCC-SLP – Accent Modification and Augmentative & Alternative Communication Supervisor
Jodi Kumar, MS, CCC-SLP – Pediatric Supervisor
Linda Jacobs-Condit, AuD, CCC-A – Audiology Coordinator, Audiologist
Jeanne McHugh, MS, CCC-SLP – Fluency Supervisor
Linda Siegfriedt, MEd, CCC-SLP – Voice Supervisor

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