

Sound Starts

Newsletter of The Lake Drive Foundation and Sound Start Program

June 2011



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**THE LAKE DRIVE
FOUNDATION**
Every Child Deserves a Sound Start

www.lakedrivefoundation.org

New Opportunities for a New Generation of Children with Hearing Loss

Mandatory newborn hearing screenings allow babies to be identified earlier than ever before. And with new knowledge about early childhood brain development and dramatic changes in advanced hearing technology, such as cochlear implants, today's infants represent a new generation of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Your gift to The Lake Drive Foundation supports the cutting edge initiatives of the Sound Start Program to keep pace with the exciting developments in audiology and auditory oral therapies. With your help, children who are deaf and hard of hearing can learn to listen, hear, speak and achieve.



Every Minute Counts

The brain is the organ of hearing – the ears are only the vehicle through which sound is transmitted to the brain. All babies are born with their brains pre-wired to learn listening and spoken language from birth. A child's brain becomes 90% hard-wired during the first three years.

Babies with hearing loss are starting from a point of neurological emergency. They have already missed out on 20 weeks of prenatal development of their auditory brain pathways even before they are born. Between birth and age three they have a limited window of time in which to catch up. Vital connections are made in the central nervous system that are uniquely attuned to receive auditory and linguistic information. In the absence of sound, the brain re-organizes itself to receive input from other senses, primarily vision; space that cannot be reclaimed effectively again.

Sound Start Changes Lives

Babies referred to The Sound Start Program receive individualized, coordinated services provided by a team of specialists in the family's home as well as in the Ivy Nursery Program at The Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes.

Your Support Provide:

- Evaluations
- Audiological Services
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Parent Education/Support Groups
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Consultations with Oral Motor Feeding Specialist
- Consultations with A/V Therapy Specialist
- Consultations with Social Worker
- Consultations with Psychologist
- Sign Language Instruction
- Full Day Ivy Nursery Classes

• Without programs like Sound Start, children with mild to moderate hearing loss, on average, achieve one to four grade levels lower than their peers with normal hearing. Children with severe to profound hearing loss usually achieve skills no higher than the third- or fourth-grade level. (*The American Speech-Hearing Association*)

• When babies with hearing loss get appropriate intervention from birth to age three, they can acquire age appropriate communications skills by the time they are five. (*Robinslaw, 1995 and Moeller, 1996; Yoshinaga-Itano, 1999*)

Sound Start Serves:

- 60 Infants and toddlers who are deaf and hearing impaired
- Between birth and age three
- From eleven counties in northern and central New Jersey
- One-half of the families face economic challenges
- One out of three comes from multi-lingual homes
- More than 30% have multiple associated disabilities compounding the challenges of learning

The Mission of
The Lake Drive Foundation
is to support the identification,
evaluation, therapeutic
intervention and education
of hearing impaired and
communication impaired
infants, toddlers and children.



Sound Start Introduces New Jersey's First Full Day Program



In September, 2010, The Sound Start Program opened New Jersey's first full day, inclusive program for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years at the Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes.

Ivy Nursery follows the successful model of Ivy Hall, the inclusive pre-k and kindergarten program at Lake Drive where children with and without hearing loss learn with, and from, each other.

Designed to take full advantage of the developing brain, the Ivy Nursery Program provides opportunities for stimulating all the senses. Two special classrooms were carefully created to foster auditory learning. The curriculum emphasizes language, literacy, the arts, and movement. Music therapy time and yoga are toddler favorites. In addition, Ivy Nursery specialists focus on physical health and well-being, motor development, social/emotional development, cognition in logic and reasoning, math, science, family, community and culture. An accompanying parent education series empowers parents to enhance child development at home.



The expanded Ivy Nursery is especially beneficial to our working parents' children. Instead of being in a general daycare program where the group size and acoustic environment are not conducive to fostering language and speech acquisition, the children are taught by professionals in early childhood development and the education of infants and toddlers with hearing loss at the Lake Drive School.

In less than one year, the students have made exceptional gains in language, social and emotional development. Including hearing peers from the community as classmates and role models prepares students with hearing loss for pre-school and mainstream education. Ivy Nursery graduates with typical hearing transition ready to learn into preschool with an understanding and acceptance of "differently-abled" children.

With your continued support, Ivy Nursery will build a stronger foundation for many more toddlers in the future.



WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY



"I feel grateful for Riley that we found this program because now I know she has the opportunity to succeed. I expect Riley is going to be just like her brothers who are hearing. She is going to have likes and dislikes, she's going to have friends, hobbies, she's going to listen talk, listen, she's going to behave, she going to misbehave. She's going to be just like everybody else. But she's going to have just a little extra something she wears on the outside of her ear. That's all."

– Mother of 20 month old in Ivy Nursery

"Once this window closes you don't get this time back. Early intervention is key. Because the investment you make now will make things a lot more cost effective later. You either pay now, or pay a lot more later, when the child is ill prepared, and they go out to society and they can't communicate, they can't read. This is an investment in our future. I can't imagine not investing in our kids."

– Mother of triplets in Ivy Nursery

"You're scared, you don't know what to do, you're depending on the teachers for guidance. I like to consider them as more than just teachers. They're almost as near as family members as you can get. So they've meant a lot to us. You feel safe, you feel educated, you know you're being led down the right road."

– Father of 2 year old in Ivy Nursery

Foundation Funds Successful Year of Outreach to New Parents at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson



Nationwide “only 54% of infants who do not pass their newborn hearing tests actually receive the recommended follow up hearing evaluation, the remaining 46% are lost to the system.” (JCIH, 2007)

In New Jersey, nearly 800 babies will be born with hearing loss this year.

Precious Ears is a joint outreach program at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Paterson funded by The Lake Drive Foundation to reach the families of babies who do not pass their newborn hearing screenings and are at risk of falling through the cracks.

The Precious Ears coordinator visits with new mothers in the hospital to explain newborn hearing screening, then build a partnership assisting with education and referrals to ensure the infants who do not pass their initial newborn hearing screenings receive follow up evaluations in the first three months. Each year an average of 3,800 babies are born at St. Joseph's. Since the inception of Precious Ears in May, 2010, the program has increased the follow up by fifty percent, meaning more babies are going to get the critical early intervention they need to succeed.



If you know a family whose newborn did not pass the hearing screening test at birth, urge the parents to follow up immediately with a comprehensive audiological exam. For more information about newborn hearing screening visit lakedrivefoundation.org or contact :

Early Hearing & Intervention Program
Department of Health and Senior Services
 Trenton, New Jersey
 Voice: (609) 292-5676 • Voice /TTY: (609) 984-1343
 Email: EHDI@doh.state.nj.us

Research Shows Talk Raises a Baby's IQ

How much talk and conversation is needed to ensure a baby's optimal growth? 30 million words.



A child's IQ is not fixed from birth. Researchers Betty Hart, Ph.D., and Todd R. Risley, Ph.D., conducted nearly 10 years of research to learn why some children perform better than others in school; they published their findings in the book *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*. According to the book, the answer is words. After the first four years, however, it is virtually impossible to close the gap between children whose parents have provided this advantage and children of parents who have not. Just how much is 21,000 words a day? Read Dr Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* 17 times and you'll be close!

“The quantity of talk and interactions that parents have with their child, predicts a child's IQ and vocabulary size more so than any other variable, including parents' education or socio-economic status.”
 – Drs. Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley

Average word count heard by children per day	7,430 words	12,810 words	21,105 words
Correlated IQ at Age Three	79 IQ	107 IQ	117+ IQ

Based on study by Drs. Hart and Risley (1995)

But how can you ensure your child hears 21,105 words a day if your child has hearing loss? Although your baby had a hearing test at birth, some babies may lose hearing later because of illness, injuries, medicine, or a family history of hearing loss.

Can otitis media (ear infections) cause a hearing loss?

Three tiny bones in the middle ear carry sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear. When fluid is present, the vibrations are not transmitted efficiently and sound energy is lost. The result may be mild or even moderate hearing loss. Therefore, speech sounds are muffled or inaudible.

Generally, this type of hearing loss is conductive and is temporary. However when otitis media occurs over and over again, damage to the eardrum, the bones of the ear, or even the hearing nerve can occur and cause a permanent, sensorineural hearing loss.

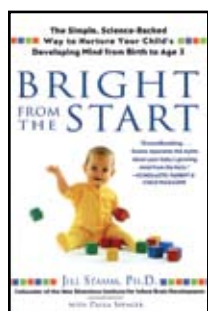
Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows. Trust your instincts. If you have questions about your baby's hearing, ask your pediatrician about having your child's hearing tested by a pediatric audiologist.

Lake Drive Foundation Hosts Early Brain Development Symposium with Neuroscientist Dr. Jill Stamm for 370 Parents and Professionals

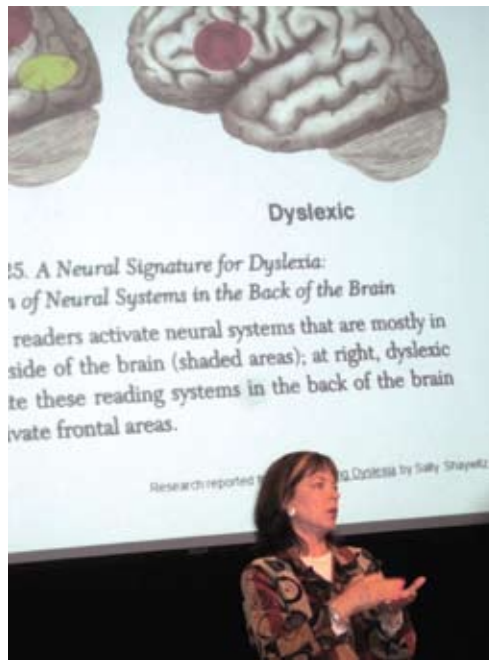
On April 8 at The Bickford Theatre in Morristown, The Lake Drive Foundation hosted Sound Start's first educational symposium featuring neuroscientist and author Dr. Jill Stamm. The internationally renowned expert in early brain development and its connection to later learning and academic achievement drew 370 parents and practitioners, including early intervention professionals, speech and language therapists, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, pediatricians, nurses, audiologists, school administrators, preschool directors and teachers, parents and grandparents.

Dr. Laura McKirdy, cofounder of The Lake Drive Programs for Children With Hearing Loss and trustee of The Lake Drive Foundation, introduced Dr. Stamm. "While we all know that babies make incredible developmental strides that occur during the first three years, it is only recently that we can document the actual physical changes in the brain that occur during this time. This illuminating research has provided information that guides the planning of effective strategies to take maximum advantage of this unique period of neural growth and plasticity. For infants and toddlers with hearing loss there is a body of research that reveals that during these early years brain connections are made between the auditory system and centers for speech and language development. Without this stimulation the auditory center is reassigned to other functions.

"The Lake Drive Foundation, in its commitment to further opportunities for children born with hearing loss recognized that this research had important implications not just for children with hearing loss but for all infants and toddlers. Today's lecture is presented to share this information with the community at large."



Dr. Stamm, is the author of, Bright from the Start, The Simple, Science-backed Way to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind from Birth to Age 3. Most importantly, she is also a mother. Dr. Stamm began her lecture sharing her journey from young mother to neuroscientist. Her first daughter, Jenny, was born prematurely with significant de-



Neuroscientist Dr. Jill Stamm

velopmental disabilities inspiring Jill to understand her daughter's unique brain functioning and provide the best care for her. Her second daughter, Kristin, followed in her mother's footsteps to also become a neuroscientist. Jenny has flourished with her mother and sister's understanding and support.

"A child's IQ is not fixed from birth. At birth, the human brain has about 100 billion nerve cells, yet most of them are unconnected," Stamm shared. "By three years old, a child's brain is about 90 percent of its adult size." The neuroscientist showed how new technology of PET scans and MRIs has made it possible for researchers to finally "look inside the brain" while it is at work at different stages of development and actually see how the brain processes information. "The visual system is the first system to 'wire up' and develops primarily in infancy," she demonstrated. Following her science backed



Dr. Stamm and the Sound Start Team

approach, the ABC's of Attention, Bonding and Communication, parents and caregivers can learn how to interact with children to increase their ability to pay attention, be securely bonded and lay the foundations for language and literacy. "Critical studies show you cannot spoil an infant by being attentive," she reassured the audience. "Human contact and touch promotes a sense of security and encourages healthy brain development."

"Implementing simple strategies so that children become successful early learners eliminates the need for expensive downstream remediation," Dr. Stamm continued. "Public investment in education is lowest in early childhood, creating a mismatch between the investments made and the opportunity for improvement. As a result, there is a great demand for expensive remedial programs to address learning and behavior problems in later years when change is far more difficult to achieve."

Dr. Stamm played an important role in the development of Arizona's Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative, a 2006 ballot measure increasing the tax on tobacco products by 80 cents a pack and dedicating the money to building a statewide system to improve the health and education of infants and toddlers. As cofounder of New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development and an associate clinical professor at Arizona State University in the Department of Psychology in Education, Dr. Stamm teaches public policy makers, business and community leaders, caregivers and others how they can apply this new knowledge of brain development to a broad range of programs and services to benefit the lives of children.

Attendees' Comments

"Excellent information for parents."

"All early intervention practitioners should attend this presentation."

"Very important information to share with school administrators regarding the cost of effectiveness of providing preventative programs."

"This lecture needs to be presented to state and national governmental representatives."

Special thanks to Johnson & Johnson for funding this meaningful symposium.

Ivy Nursery Dedicated to Duke Smith



On April 15 at The Lake Drive School, The Sound Start Program's full day Ivy Nursery was dedicated in honor of the late Adrian "Duke" Smith, a founding trustee and former President of The Lake Drive Foundation from Mountain Lakes. A long time community leader

and mayor of Mountain Lakes, Duke was passionate about supporting The Sound Start Program and enjoyed watching the Lake Drive students grow up and achieve at Briarcliff and the Mountain Lakes High School.

"What better tribute can we pay to Duke?" foundation trustee Dr. Laura McKirdy, told Duke's wife Dot, her son DeWitt, his wife Lisa and their son Tyler, "than to dedicate Ivy Nursery to an inspirational leader who throughout his own life embodied all the qualities of children: boundless energy, curiosity, joy in learning, perseverance in achieving important goals, to which he added characteristics of maturity—wisdom, the ability to lead others, a basic sense of honor and fairness, and a great and enduring optimism for the capacity of all children. We were all so fortunate to share in Duke's life and to dedicate this nursery as a formal marker to ensure that the memory of his important role in the lives of children with hearing loss endures."



Ivy Nursery students hand out certificates of appreciation at the dedication.

Remember The Duke Smith Endowment in Your Planned Giving

Bequests • Retirement Accounts • Life Insurance
Charitable Remainder Trusts

Leave a legacy to the Duke Smith Endowment of The Lake Drive Foundation and give generations of babies with hearing loss a sound start. Contact Sueanne Sylvester, Fund Development Specialist at 973-265-4168 or ssylvester@mtlakes.org for a tour of the program and to find out more.

Kiwanis Wine Tasting Event Raises \$9,000 for Sound Start



Last October the Kiwanis Club of Greater Parsippany hosted their Annual Grand Tasting for 280 guests at the Villa in Mountain Lakes benefiting The Lake Drive Foundation. "It's a pleasure for guests to come to a wonderful event like this and know that it supports a wonderful cause," shared Grand Tasting Chair, Michael

Mulhaul. "I learned about The Lake Drive School and Foundation two years ago and it has become a charity that is very dear to me." The Kiwanis Club Foundation donated \$9,000 from the highly successful event to support The Sound Start Program. Special thanks to the Liquor Outlet Wine Cellars in Boonton for organizing more than 300 varieties of fine wine, beer and spirits.

Hoop-a-Paluzza Basketball Event Nets \$20,000 for Sound Start



A carnival, prizes, DJ, tons of free food and basketball brought together fundraisers and beneficiaries for a unique afternoon to raise funds for eleven children's charities in New Jersey and New York.

On Sunday, December 5, Lake Drive staff and students were among the 600 participants at the 9th annual Hoop-a-Paluzza at the Millburn High School gym, an event that netted more than \$200,000 for the HAPI Foundation, a non-profit based in Essex County. This was the second year The Lake Drive Foundation was selected as a beneficiary of the event and funding will support the Sound Start Program.

For Lake Drive children, meeting NBA player, Darryl Dawkins, known as "Chocolate Thunder" was without a doubt, the highlight of the day.

Hoop-A-Paluzza has come a long way since it began in HAPI founder Edward Zimmerman's back yard in 2002, raising more than \$2.5 million in nine years. "I wanted to give back to the community by doing something with my kids," Zimmerman said about coming up with the idea of Hoop-A-Paluzza.. Zimmerman couldn't have thought of a better way to have kids connect and raise awareness about giving back than through a fun event like Hoop-A-Paluzza.

Cofounders of The Lake Drive Programs, Gail Dunlap Reuben and Dr. Laura McKirdy Honored at Two Events



On May 2, 2010, forty years after founding The Lake Drive Programs for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Gail Dunlap Reuben and Dr. Laura McKirdy were awarded the 2011 New Jersey Women of Achievement Award by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs at the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City. The award celebrates the significant accomplishments of distinguished women in New Jersey who have demonstrated a strong commitment in leadership, humanitarianism, philanthropy, community service, the

arts, and to professional commitment. Distinguished past honorees include former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Althea Gibson, Millicent Fenwick and Mary Higgins Clark.

The following day, May 3, the cofounders were honored at Ramapo College with The Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference, which recognizes unsung heroes who have made a significant difference to the well-being of society. Reuben and McKirdy were among eleven finalists selected from more than 200 nominees by The Russell Berrie Foundation's advisory board of distinguished business leaders and professionals. The Honorable Cory Booker was the event's keynote speaker, sharing personal stories of how unsung heroes impacted his life enabling him to have the opportunities to become the person he is today. Angelica Berrie presented the awards which were founded 15 years ago by her late husband. Reuben and McKirdy received \$5,000, which they donated to The Lake Drive Foundation for The Sound Start Early Intervention Program.

Oticon Focus on People Awards Program Recognizes Trustee Eric Green

Foundation Trustee Eric Green was one of 150 recipients in the country recognized by Peer Lauritsen, president of Oticon Inc., as a part of the 2010 Oticon Focus on People Awards program. The award recognizes those who work to improve the lives of those suffering from hearing loss. Green, an audiologist with Total Hearing Care, was commended for his dedicated work to ensure babies with hearing loss are diagnosed, receive amplification and intervention as early as possible.



Lake Drive to be Honored for Excellence and Innovation in Health Education



On June 21, The Lake Drive Programs will be honored by NJBIZ as an exceptional organization in healthcare education during a breakfast awards ceremony at the Palace at Somerset Park. The NJBIZ Healthcare Heroes awards program is sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield and recognizes excellence and innovation in individuals and organizations making a significant impact on the quality of healthcare in New Jersey. Please join us in applauding Lake Drive Principal Trish Filiaci and Director of Programs Michele Klimovitch for their tireless work and dedication to the highest standards in healthcare services and education for the students at Lake Drive. The breakfast begins at 8:00am until 12:30pm, and the cost is \$60.00 per person.

To register for this event, please visit www.njbiz.com/events



They grow up so fast. Where are they now?

Congratulations Sound Start and Lake Drive Program Graduates! Since 1969, Sound Start has changed the lives of more than 1,000 children with hearing loss. At age three, Sound Start babies graduate ready to learn into the Lake Drive Programs for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing or may be mainstreamed into schools in their home communities.

While New Jersey's high school dropout rate is 17%, and the national average for students with hearing loss who do not receive high school diplomas is 50%, Lake Drive's graduation rate is 100%. We are delighted to be able to share some of the success stories of many of our students who have continued in the Lake Drive Programs who are graduating from high school and college this year.



Daniel D. graduated from Gallaudet University with a degree in Communication Studies. He was selected to speak at graduation. Daniel will be returning to work in the Marshall Islands for one year teaching children English and sign language. Read more from his blog at www.lakedrivefoundation.org

Lake Drive Students Graduating from Mountain Lakes High School

- Naomi L. has received a Presidential Scholarship to Gallaudet University.
- Kevin P. and Steven R. will be attending RIT/NTID.
- Hannah L. has received a scholarship to King's College.
- Matthew N. has chosen the University of Rochester.
- David M. was named one of 16 All Stars at the National Deaf Academic Bowl after competing against 352 of the brightest high school students with hearing loss in the nation. He will be attending Tufts University.

Lake Drive Students Graduating from College

- Donna G. graduated from Gallaudet University with a degree in psychology. She will enter a clinical psychology program at Gallaudet in the fall.
- Ian L. graduated Suma Cum Laude from Gallaudet University with a degree in psychology and chemistry. He received the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Psychology Major Award, won the 2011 Thomas S. Marr Award for the highest overall GPA, and won the District of Columbia Space Grant Consortium for three years. Ian has been awarded a fellowship at NIH to work in the Cancer Research Group, then plans to attend medical school
- Christopher L. graduated from Farleigh Dickinson University with a degree in psychology. He plans to get an MA in Neurophysiology or Sports Psychology.



Erick H. graduated Magna Cum Laude from RIT. The pin on his shoulder is from Beta Gamma Sigma, the international business honor society. Erick wore an orange and blue tie for Mountain Lakes High School. He plans to go into finance.

Ways You Can Support The Lake Drive Foundation

State funding covers only one third of the cost of the Lake Drive Sound Start Early Intervention Program. For babies with hearing loss, every minute counts and every dollar counts. Your support is a proven sound investment.

Donate today, and your gift will be matched by an anonymous contributor! Thank you.



Make a donation in celebration of a birthday, graduation or anniversary, or in honor or memory of someone special.

Workplace Giving

If you give at work to the United Way or make donations through any other workplace giving or charitable gift fund, consider directing your donation to The Lake Drive Foundation.

Shop Online Through our Website

Use our links to Amazon, iGive and Overstock and they will donate up to 10% of your purchase to The Sound Start Program. Combined, these links give you access to 750 of your favorite online stores. Share these links to your family and friends.



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