Language Assessment Program for Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (K.S.A. 75-5397e)

K.S.A. 75-5397e Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee

- Coordinated by the Kansas Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)
- 16-member advisory committee
- Meetings began October 2016; Final Report Due January 31, 2018
- Implementation is set to begin July 1, 2018

Advisory Committee Appointed Members

- Nancy DeFazio: Parent whose child uses spoken English with or without visuals
- Katie Wise: Parent whose child uses both ASL and English
- Janet Goodenow: Teacher of the Deaf using spoken English with or without visuals
- Dr. Petra M. Horn-Marsh: Professional with a linguistic background in working with children who are deaf/hard of hearing
- Joan Macy: Teacher of the Deaf using both ASL and English

Advisory Committee Appointed Members

- Dr. Bob Maile: Person who is knowledgeable about teaching and using both ASL and English
- Robin Olson: Teacher of the Deaf with expertise in curriculum development and instruction of ASL and English
- Kris Pedersen: Speech Language Pathologist with experience working with birth-eight
- Angie Walker: Teacher of the Deaf with expertise in assessing language development in both ASL and English

Advisory Committee
Ex Officio Members

- Robert Cooper: KCDHH Executive Director
- Luanne Barron: Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD) Interim Superintendent
- Dr. Joan Houghton: KSDE
- Liz Schardine: KDHE, Coordinator of the SoundBeginnings Newborn Hearing Screening program
- Dr. Vera Stroup-Rentier/Barbara Dayal/Laura Jurgensen: KSDE, representing Part B
- Heather Staab: KDHE, Coordinator of the Part C program
- Erin Schuweiler: KSSD, Coordinator of the Sound START early intervention program

K.S.A. 75-5397e Report and Recommendations

Purpose of K.S.A. 75-5397e

- Establish a language assessment program with the purpose of assessing, monitoring, and tracking the language developmental milestones of children who are deaf/hard of hearing ages birth-eight.

- At a minimum, annual assessments will be given to each child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who is less than 9 years old in ASL and/or English.

Intended Outcomes

- Gaps/delays in language will be identified earlier so that appropriate interventions can be implemented.
- Children who are deaf/hard of hearing will have language levels commensurate with their hearing peers, regardless of language choice (ASL and/or English).
- Children will meet both the Kansas Early Learning and English Language standards, be Kindergarten ready, and continue to show achievement in all areas of development.

Overview of the Report

- Responses to specific mandates in the law
- Additional information related to implementation
- Reports of the four sub-committees
  - Assessment Instruments/Milestones Sub-Committee
  - Qualifications and Training Sub-Committee
  - Database/Reporting Results Sub-Committee
  - Considerations Related to Implementation Sub-Committee
- Documents developed to facilitate implementation

Summary of Mandates

- Develop language milestones in ASL and English
- Review, recommend, and monitor the use of language assessments
- Identify and recommend qualifications of language professionals who can advocate at IEP/IFSP meetings
- Identify qualifications of language assessment evaluators
- Identify procedures and methods for communicating assessment results and data to families and professionals

Language Milestones/Assessments

- Created a document that identifies the relevant language milestones from birth-eight (Appendix C)
- Determined a list of recommended assessments that best identify the child's language level and any delays (Appendix D)
- Determined a protocol to provide at a minimum annual assessments in both ASL and/or English (Appendix D)

Qualifications of evaluators

- Licensure as a Teacher of the Deaf, Speech Language Pathologist, and/or Early Childhood Special Educator
- Knowledge and training in working with children who are deaf/hard of hearing
- For ASL assessments, proficiency in ASL is required
- For other visual supplements(ex. SEE), proficiency is required
- Training will be provided for evaluators

Reporting

- Following assessments, written report will be developed and shared with parents and the IFSP/IEP/504/SIT team.
  - Assessment results
  - Recommendations
- Summary data will be housed in a database to be reported annually by KCDHH

Recommendations for Implementation

- Language assessment program will be housed at the Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD)
- Evaluators will be secured and trained by KSSD
- Evaluators will collaborate with tiny-k providers, IEP teams, 504 teams, and SIT teams to complete the assessments and share the results and recommendations
- KSSD will submit report to KCDHH annually
- Implementation will happen in phases

Phases for Implementation

- January-July 2018: Dissemination of information, development of materials (promotional flyers, permission forms), and database development

- July 2018-June 2019: Assessments begin for current Sound START (birth-three) children for the purpose of piloting and gathering baseline data

- July 2019-June 2020: Continue Sound START children and add children who attend KSD (3-8)

Phases for Implementation

- July 2020-June 2021: Continue above and add all children who are deaf/hard of hearing ages birth-three
- July 2021-June 2022: Continue above and add all children who are deaf/hard of hearing ages three-five
- July 2022-June 2023: Continue above and add all children who are deaf/hard of hearing ages five-eight

Estimated Costs: Phase 1 and Phase 2

Category	Description	Totals
Assessment Tools	• See assessment sub-committee report	$18,372.00
Training	• See qualifications sub-committee report	$20,478.00
Database	• $12,000 annually – user fees • *$93,750 (Grant Funded) - Development, maintenance, & growth	$24,000.00
Salaries	• 1 FTE (New position=$60,000 annually) • **4 FTE (Existing personnel)	$120,000.00
Program Development	• Travel • Technology • Interpreters • Education	$25,000.00
TOTAL		$207,850.00

Costs

- ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED FOR FIRST TWO YEARS: $0
- The $93,750 for the development, maintenance, and growth will initially be funded through a grant from SoundBeginnings.
- We will utilize some current staff to initially implement the program for Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Observations

- Implementation will be a fluid process that may change over time.
- This is a collaborative process and will continue to fall in line with the evidence-based practices we use in Kansas.
- Communication and collaboration will be essential for this program.

Ultimate Goals

- Early fluent communication
- Data-driven interventions
- Language without limits
- Deaf/hard of hearing children with age-appropriate language

“*The limits of my language are the limits of my world.*”

-Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein