A 2017 study* funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that:

Meeting all of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) 1-3-6 guidelines for children with hearing loss significantly increased children’s vocabulary outcomes

System improvements that increase the number of children who meet the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines have been shown to enhance vocabulary learning

Current efforts to identify hearing loss and enroll children in early intervention at younger ages provide the best opportunity for the best vocabulary outcomes

The study included 448 children:
- With bilateral hearing loss
- Ages 8 to 39 months
- Living across 12 states

What else did the study show?
- Children with hearing loss who didn’t meet all of the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines often had poorer vocabulary outcomes than their peers
- All children who met the 1-3-6 guidelines had better vocabulary outcomes, including children who had additional disabilities or mothers with lower levels of education
- There was no significant relationship between vocabulary outcomes and sex of the child or language of the home (English or Spanish)
- Meeting all EHDI 1-3-6 benchmarks helped all children, regardless of their level of hearing loss or other determining factors

What are the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines?
The EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines are key benchmarks that help identify children with hearing loss and ensure they start receiving intervention early.

Hearing screening by 1 month
Diagnosis of hearing loss by 3 months
Enrollment in intervention by 6 months

Successfully implementing the EHDI guidelines requires a team approach to ensure timely transitions from screening to diagnosis to intervention. The team should include the following:
- Pediatricians
- Newborn screening personnel
- Audiologists
- Early interventionists
- State-based EHDI surveillance programs
- Parents and caregivers

What can health care providers do?
- Encourage and help parents to make sure their child meets the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines
- Routinely check to ensure your patients are meeting the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines
- Help parents understand the negative impact of late identification of hearing loss and the life-long benefits for their child in meeting the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines

Where can I learn more?
Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program web page for more information and helpful resources: [https://www.aap.org/ehdi](https://www.aap.org/ehdi)

What can we learn from additional research?
- Future studies can look at related variables such as the following:
  - Family involvement
  - Parent-child interaction
  - Compliance with amplification use
  - Intensity of intervention services
  - Characteristics of early intervention providers and programs

References:

*This infographic was developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program through a cooperative agreement #U38OT000167 with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.