



by David Glaser, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA  
*Doctor of Audiology*

## **GOOD NEWS, BETTER NEW**

While children with mild to severe hearing loss are challenged with poorer language development than their hearing peers, fitting these youngsters with hearing instruments helps them overcome these deficits. According to a first-of-its-kind, large-scale study involving children ranging in age from six months to seven years old who experienced mild to severe hearing loss, those fitted early with hearing instruments were able to “catch up or significantly close the gaps with their hearing peers.” The earlier the children were provided hearing instruments, and the more consistently they wore them, the better able they were to take advantage of the rich linguistic environment around them and better develop the language skills needed for learning, speech, and socialization.

### **TIP OF THE WEEK**

*The best style of hearing instruments for younger children are the traditional behind the ear instruments with custom earmolds. Children at this age grow so quickly that it is easier and more cost effective to replace the earmolds than the hearing instruments.*

**P.S. It is important to note that three-quarters of the children with hearing loss in the study mentioned above were identified through newborn hearing screenings.**

AA-17