

Spring 2014 Lecture Series
Surviving and Thriving in Adolescence

The Bionic Ear: Challenges of Educating Deaf Teenagers in the 21st Century

January 17, 2014

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Communication performance of children with cochlear implants is highly variable

- Child and family characteristics
- Deafness characteristics
- Reliance on spoken language
- Executive functioning

Communication performance of children with cochlear implants in elementary school predicts performance in high school

- During elementary school, adults execute the planning
- During adolescence and adulthood, CI users must plan each day to accomplish activities
- Learn to prioritize
- Learn to stick with a task to completion
- Learn to organize
- Learn to do more than one thing at a time

Executive functions are associated with attention, inhibitory control, memory, flexibility and planning contribute to executive function

- Working memory and recall
- Activation, arousal and effort
- Emotional control
- Language internalization

- Deconstructing and constructing ideas for problem solving

Encouraging executive functions

- Initiate
- Inhibit
- Shift
- Plan
- Organize
- Self-monitor
- Emotional Control

Resources suggested by Beer, J., Pisoni, D., Kronenberger, W., and Geers, A. (2010). Executive Functions of Adolescents Who Use Cochlear Implants. *The ASHA Leader*, December 21, 2010.

[Cogmed Working Memory Training](#). A computer-based training program for children and adolescents with poor working memory and or attention deficits.

"Boss Your Brain." Strategies for students that help them remember, organize, and retrieve information they hear and read. Robbins, A.M. (2005, July/August). *Volta Voices*, 38-40.

Executive Skills in Children and Adolescents. A guidebook for parents and educators that includes practical and detailed procedures for designing and implementing interventions to promote executive skills. Dawson, P., & Guare, R. (2004). *Executive skills in children and adolescents. A practical guide to assessment and intervention*. NY: Guilford Press.

Study Strategies. A resource book for students in grades 6 through 12 that includes activities and exercises that focus on improving organizational skills, time management, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, communication, how to study for tests effectively, and memorization skills. Davis, L., & Sirotowitz, S. (1997). *Study strategies made easy*. Plantation, FL: Specialty Press.

Collaborative Intervention Strategies. A practical guide for clinicians and speech-language pathologists that provides collaborative approaches to assessment and intervention in the areas of executive function, cognition, behavior, and communication and social skills. Ylvisaker, M., & Feeney, T. (1998). *Collaborative brain injury intervention: Positive everyday routines*. Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning.