



# Auditory Brain Development: The Foundation of Spoken Communication and Literacy for All Children

April 17, 2015

9:30 am - 11:00 am

CESA 10, 725 W Park Ave, Chippewa Falls

This presentation will highlight the pivotal role of auditory brain development in the acquisition of spoken communication for all children, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Discussed will be the roles of neuroplasticity, hearing problems, technology, and auditory brain stimulation on central auditory neural maturation. The concept of experience dependent plasticity will be linked with the amount of auditory practice that is necessary to generate and change neural pathways. It's likely that we have substantially underestimated the amount of auditory/linguistic practice time that is actually required to wire and re-wire the baby's brain for high performance.

The exciting news emphasized in this talk is that appropriate early and continuing auditory enrichment that capitalizes on brain neuroplasticity and auditory technologies, allows for spoken language and literacy outcomes never before imagined for today's infants and children with any type and degree of hearing loss or developmental challenge.

**Learner outcomes: As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:**

1. Describe auditory brain development as the foundation for listening, language and literacy for all children including those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. Discuss the concept of "experience dependent plasticity."
3. Discuss the relationship of neuroplasticity to the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants for children who experience hearing loss.
4. Explain how parents, interventionists and teachers can "grow the child's brain" for listening, speaking, reading and learning.

Presenter: **Carol Flexer**, PhD, CCC-A, is an internationally known professor. She earned her PhD in Clinical Audiology, aural rehabilitation, and psychology from Kent State University. She held a position at the University of Akron for 25 years as a Distinguished Professor of Audiology. You can learn more about the many accomplishments of Dr. Flexer on her website ([www.carolflexer.com](http://www.carolflexer.com)).

**Target Audience:** Birth to 3, Early Childhood, Preschool, 4K and 5K Teachers

**Cost:** No charge

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**Registration:** Shari Owen, 715-720-2060, sowen@cesa10.k12.wi.us

Registration is done online through MyQuickReg  
(<http://www.myquickreg.com>)

For more information, check out this short video clip at <https://www.cesa10.k12.wi.us/index.php?Prog=SDocument&Task=Init&ID=53>