

Dual-Language Learning for Children with Hearing Loss Launched Today at 2014 AG Bell Convention



Author will be on-site to sign books during the meeting

June 26, 2014 – (Orlando, FL) – MED-EL USA announced today the launch of the first-ever book for speech and hearing professionals and families of children with hearing loss who speak more than one language, *Dual-Language Learning for Children with Hearing Loss*. The book is being released during the 2014 AG Bell Convention and is a part of MED-EL's comprehensive BRIDGE to Better Communication rehabilitation program. The book's author, Michael Douglas, M.A., CCC-SLP, LSL Cert. AVT, will be on-site to sign books at MED-EL's booth Friday, June 27, from 5:30-7:00 pm, Saturday, June 28, from 12:00-1:00 pm and Sunday, June 29, 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

"Increasing numbers of hearing and speech professionals are finding themselves working with children who have hearing loss and come from linguistically diverse backgrounds. Clinicians may be faced with the challenge of helping families who do not speak the majority language," said Douglas, who is currently Principal of the Mama Lere Hearing School in the Bill Wilkerson Center at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Research has shown that encouraging minority language development neither impairs a child with hearing loss nor prevents him or her from learning the majority language in the presence of adequate speech perception and an effective immersion process. As long as a child with hearing loss can demonstrate adequate speech perception within the first few years of life using the latest hearing technology, families can take advantage of their child's critical learning period with the help of appropriate identification and special intervention procedures to develop bilingualism.

"We now have, more than ever, a unique opportunity to improve services for families who do not speak a majority language or speak more than one language and want a bilingual outcome for their children with hearing loss. I hope this book helps professionals enhance their practice and even inspire others to contribute to a much needed body of resources on this topic," Douglas continued.

"MED-EL is proud to have published this important resource for speech and hearing professionals who work in diverse and multicultural settings. *Dual-Language Learning* provides both the knowledge and tools for practitioners to have a successful experience, even if they speak a different language than their clients," said Darla Franz, M.A., CCC-A, Vice President of Education & Corporate Communication, MED-EL USA. "Professionals who serve a culturally and linguistically diverse population now have a resource that helps integrate education for children with hearing loss with the needs of all of their families."

Dual-Language Learning was developed to assist professionals with issues surrounding assessment and intervention for children with hearing loss who are culturally and linguistically diverse. It also provides a guideline for administrators in developing a program for bilingual children. The book is relevant for clinicians providing individual intervention or for group settings such as preschools or schools.

Each chapter provides useful tools for clinicians including reproducible charts, worksheets, and suggestions for further reading.

The book is \$20.00 and available for order through MED-EL's website, www.medel.com, by phone, (888) 633-3524 or by email, USAmarketing@medel.com. Books will also be available for purchase on-site at the 2014 AG Bell Convention.

About the Author

Michael Douglas, M.A., CCC-SLP, LSLC Cert. AVT, is a speech-language pathologist and a certified auditory-verbal therapist. He received his B.A. in speech-language pathology in 1994 and M.A. in 1996 from the University of North Texas. He has contributed to several peer review publications on this issue and has been an adjunct instructor at The University of Houston from 2010 to 2012. Currently, he mentors aspiring Cert. AVTs, lectures worldwide and is the Principal of the Mama Lere Hearing School in the Bill Wilkerson Center at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

About MED-EL

MED-EL Medical Electronics is a leading provider of hearing implant systems worldwide. The company was founded by Austrian scientists and industry pioneers Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair, who together developed the world's first microelectronic, multichannel cochlear implant in 1977. In 1990, they laid the foundation for the successful growth of the company when they hired their first employees. To date, the privately held company now has more than 1,500 employees around the world.

The cochlear implant was and remains the first replacement of a human sense, the sense of hearing.

Today, MED-EL offers the widest range of implantable solutions worldwide to treat the various degrees of hearing loss, including cochlear, middle ear and bone conduction implant systems as well as a system for combined electric and acoustic stimulation.

MED-EL's mission is to overcome hearing loss as a barrier to communication and quality of life. Individuals in more than 100 countries enjoy the gift of hearing with a MED-EL Hearing Implant System. www.medel.com