

Purpose

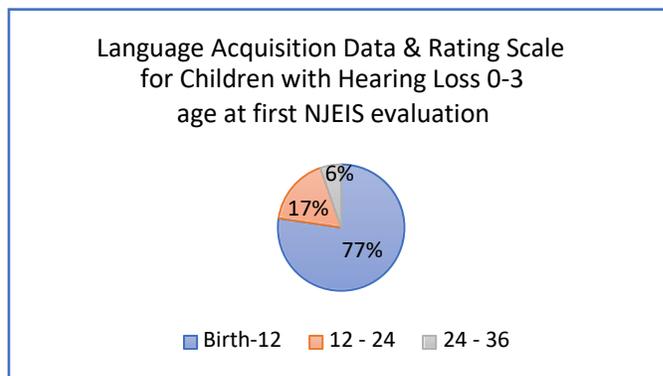
P.L. 2019, Chapter 205 states: “The Early Intervention Program in the Department of Health, established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1993, c.309 16 (C.26:1A-36.7), shall annually collect and publicly report data on the language acquisition and developmental progress of infants and toddlers from birth to age two who are deaf or hard of hearing.”

The data and reporting provided in this document is compliant with P.L. 2019, Chapter 205 and is the first year of public reporting for the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS).

Data Summary

Number of Children included in this report = 232

Average age at initial evaluation with BDI-2 = 8 months



The overall Language Acquisition Score for FY22 is 2.06 (Below Age-Level Expectations)

RATING	CHILD COUNT
1 – Significantly Below Average	81
2 – Below Average	46
3 – Approaching Age Appropriate	90
4 - Age Appropriate	15
Total Child Count	232

Method

NJEIS staff from the Department of Health (DOH) collaborated with the staff of the NJ Department of Education (DOE) throughout the initial year of this project. For consistency, the NJEIS decided to utilize the same descriptions and overall rating scale established by the DOE. These are listed in the table below.

Language Acquisition Rating Scale for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Birth – 5 years of age			Summary Score on BDI-2
Age-level or Above	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child demonstrates age-appropriate receptive and expressive language development in English and/or ASL across all settings to include social, functional, and academic communication. No concerns are currently noted by any team members. Careful monitoring should continue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110-155
Approaching Age-Appropriate	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child’s receptive and expressive language, in English and/or ASL, may be unevenly developed but is generally within range of peers across all settings to include social, functional, and academic communication. Some concerns have been noted by any team members; however, the language gap between the child and peers is closing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80-109
Below Age-Level Expectations	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child’s receptive and expressive language, in English and/or ASL, is less developed than same-age peers across all settings to include social, functional, and academic communication. Concerns have been noted by team members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70-79
Significantly Below Age-Expectations	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child’s receptive and expressive language, in English and/or ASL, is significantly less developed than same-age peers across all settings to include social, functional, and academic communication. Significant concerns have been noted by team members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45-69

The NJEIS uses the Battelle Developmental Inventory Second Edition (BDI-2) for all children as part of their initial evaluation process for the NJEIS. Evaluators use supplemental tools as necessary to obtain additional information on a child’s developmental status, including the acquisition of language, the development of skills and knowledge and the child’s ability to take actions to meet their needs.

For purposes of this report the BDI-2 was the common evaluation tool available for all children in the time sample, and therefore was chosen as the data point to collect and determine each child’s individual Language Acquisition Rating. The Communication Domain on the BDI-2 has 2 sub-domains that measure a child’s 1) Receptive Language skills and 2) Expressive Language skills relative to their same age peers. The information from both sub-domains is calculated into an overall domain Summary Score (mean= 100, Sd = 15). The Summary Score was identified by NJEIS as the measure to align with the 1-4 rating descriptions as described in the table above.

The DOH reviewed the most recent Summary Score in the Communication Domain for each child with hearing loss participating in NJEIS during the month of March 2023.

Language Acquisition Data and Rating Scale Report for Children with Hearing Loss
New Jersey Early Intervention System
SFY 2023

The data was sorted by score and a weighted average was determined. The determination of the overall Language Acquisition Score for FY22 for the 232 children in NJEIS was calculated as an average sum of all items/divided by the number of observations. Therefore $232/4=58$. As the rating scale is 1 through 4, the multiplier calculations are $503/232$, for an overall rating of 2.17.

Rating	Count	Multiplier (score)	Total of Scores
1 – Significantly Below Average	81	1	91
2 – Below Average	46	2	92
3 – Approaching Age Appropriate	90	3	270
4 - Age Appropriate	15	4	60
Total # Scores (children participated)	232		503

Questions on this report can be directed to Patty Green at the NJ DOH. Patty.green@doh.nj.gov