



# EDUBABY MARSHALL ISLANDS

A Trans-Pacific Partnership







# Presenters

Nancy Rushmer  
Katina Peter  
Mellanie Lee  
Judy Coryell  
Jan Fried

**Rest of EHDI Team:** Project Coordinator: *Helen J. David*; Project Supervisor, *Agnes Flood*; Program Evaluator – Univ of Hawai'i Coordinator: *Jean Johnson*; Pediatric Audiologist: *Yusnita Weirather*

**Cailla**, 3 ½ weeks,  
slept through her first day of school





# A Collaborative Project

## Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Education (MOH)
- Marshall Islands Special Parents Association (MISPA)
- Women United Together for the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)
- Marshall Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (MICNGOs)

# Partners Across the Pacific

- University of Hawai'i Center on Disabilities Studies
- Kapi'olani Community College American Sign Language/Interpreter Education Program
- Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific
- Pacific Deaf-Blind Project





# It All Started With the Parents



# Katina Peter

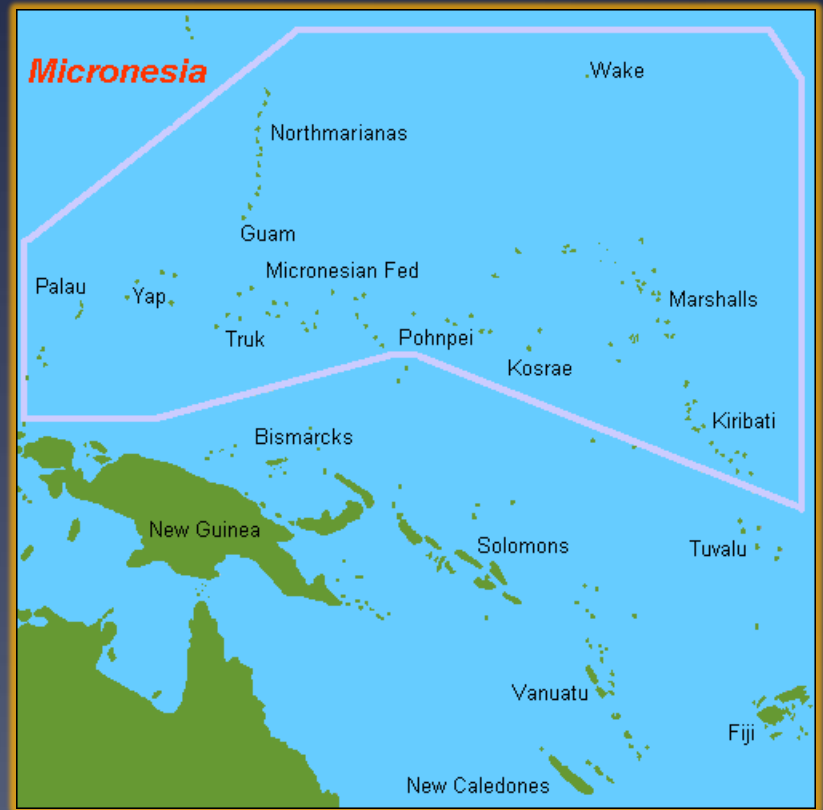


- Grandmother of 12 year old Talianna, who is deaf
- President of Marshall Islands Special Parents Association (MISPA)
- EduBaby Marshall Islands Teacher



# Republic of the Marshall Islands

- Former U.S. Trust Territory
- Independent since 1986
- Population 66,000
- 30,000 on Majuro—capitol and main island
- Spreads across 750,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean



# Five Islands & 29 Atolls (made up of over 1100 small islets)





# Protestant Church



# Talianna



- Birthdate
- Age became deaf
- Family life with Talianna





# Katina

- Marshall Islands Special Parents Association
- Katina Peter met Marshall Islands EHDI staff in June, 2010
- Joined August Early Intervention Week activities
- Helped launch new EI program: EduBaby
- Role in EduBaby Marshall Islands
- Advice for other families



# RMI EHDI Project Activities

## The Beginning

Initial EHDI activities lay groundwork for  
*EduBaby Marshall Islands*

- Newborn Hearing Screening
- Pacific Deaf-Blind Project
- Gallaudet Summer Internship Program
- Summer School: Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing
- American Sign Language for Community

# May 2010 NHS Training

Agnes Flood, Supervisor  
& Newborn Nurses

Yusnita Weirather,  
Pediatric Audiologist





# Pacific Deaf-Blind Project

## June 2010



- Long history of TA in the RMI
- Supported EHDI Team in making connections w/agencies and community leaders
- Collaborated onsite with GURC to support Child Find efforts, provided TA and assessment and developed 3-year plan for program development

# Gallaudet University Regional Center of the Pacific - Summer Internship Program



- 2 Deaf college interns (1 Local & 1 from the “island” of NJ)
- 12-week internship
- Served as Mentors, Teachers (ASL), Models, Spokespeople
- Amazing impact on Deaf/HH/DB children, families & community



# RMI Summer School

- All Deaf/HH/DB from Majuro together
- Lasted 4 weeks
- Curriculum jointly developed with RMI teachers and GURC
- Gallaudet interns team taught with teachers
- Culminating Activity



# July-ASL Week

- 75+ SPED teachers took 1-week intensive-Great fun!
- Taught by Jan, Mela & Daniel
- Joined by Deaf students, their families & Deaf teachers
- Outcomes: Basic communication skills & a new appreciation for ASL & Deaf people





# Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation August, 2010



Eleven babies tested.  
Three confirmed with hearing loss.

# Early Intervention Week

## August, 2010

- E.I. workshop for Newborn Nurses
- Referral of three babies with hearing loss
- Conference with Ministry of Education (MOE)





# Ministry of Education (MOE)

## Advise and Support EI Week

- Ruthiran Lokeijak, Director of Special Education
- Teikla Enos, Supervisor of ECSE for MOE, loaned to EHDI Project for Early Intervention Week
  - \* Set up all home & school visits with EI Specialist
  - \* Served as Marshallese-English translator
  - \* Family support & co-teaching with EI Specialist
  - \* Represented MOE in all Early Intervention Week activities
- MOE indicates there is no public funding for early intervention

# Conference With Katina Peter, MISPA

Afternoon spent brainstorming El  
Week

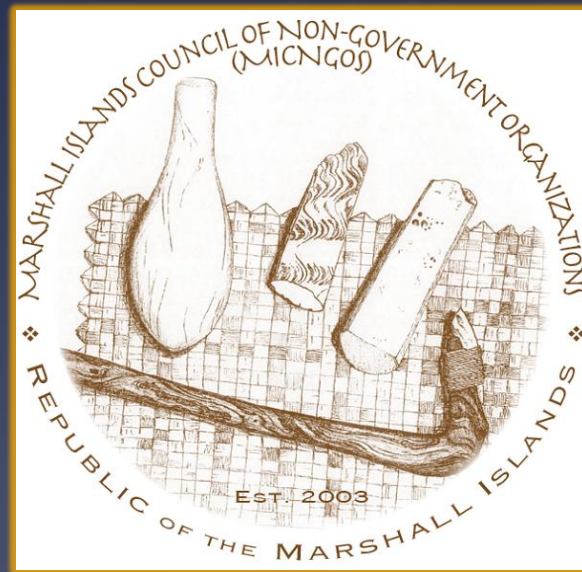




# Early Intervention Week Plan

- Home visits with families and identified infants
- Home/school visits with families of recently identified children with hearing loss (3–6 years)
- Find site for EI Training workshops
- Recruit individuals for EI Training
- Recruit teachers for new EI services
- Secure funding for new EI services
- Determine management for new EI program
- Begin community awareness and Child Find activities

# Marshall Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (MICNGOs)



Private funding options and management of new EI  
program explored with Bonny Taggart  
MICNGOs Coordinator

# Enroll Three Babies in EI August, 2010



Baby school sure is relaxing!



# Family Support Begins



Teikla Enos, Early Childhood Special Ed Supervisor

# Recruit Teachers for Workshops

- A walk on the beach and Co-op preschool teacher is recruited
- More Co-op School Teachers attend



# EduBaby Marshall Islands

*Early Intervention for Young Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Children and Their Families*

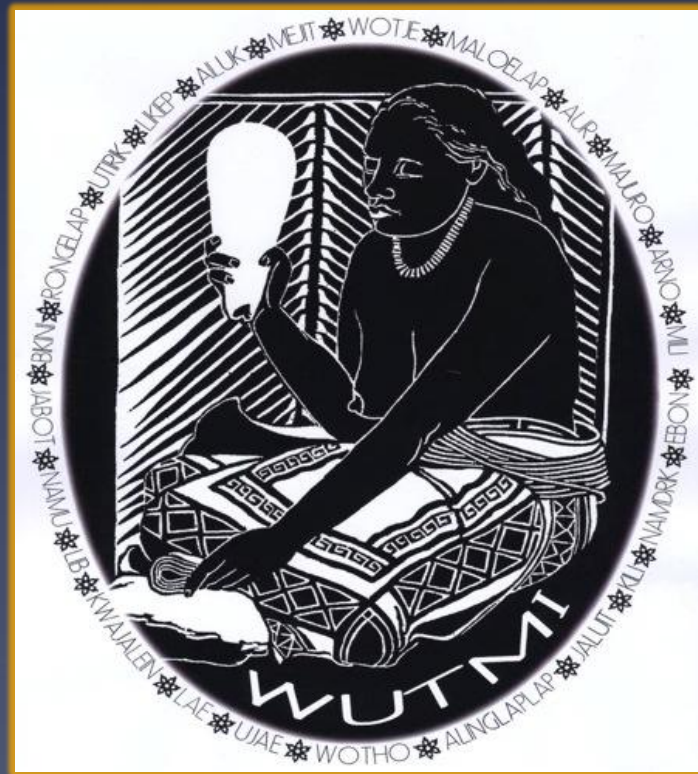


Prospective teachers select name for new early intervention program.  
Parents as Teachers staff from WUTMI attend.



# Women United Together for the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)

WUTMI to support EduBaby Marshall Islands



# School Support for Newly Identified Children (3–6 yrs)

Kindergartners Learn Signs



Teacher Support



# Family Visit for Deaf-Blind Student





# Wrap-Up Early Intervention Week

- Report progress to Ministry of Education
- Report progress to Ministry of Health, Newborn Hearing Screening Team
- Select two teachers: Katina Peter, Teikla Enos
- Public Awareness Campaign
  - Radio announcement and Child Find event
  - Article in Marshall Islands Journal
  - Met with U.S. Ambassador to RMI, Martha Campbell



# Outcomes

- Three babies enrolled in new EI Family Support Program
- Two EI teachers selected to volunteer for next six months
- Plans for Sign Language instruction for families
- Future EI teacher training forecast for 2011
- Ongoing public awareness and Child Find for children with hearing loss birth to five years



# Outcomes (cont.)

- Further evaluation of RMI Deaf Education and Teacher Training forecast for 2011
- WUTMI Parents as Teachers committed to work with EduBaby Marshall Islands
- MICNGOs commits to help with grant proposal for private funding for EduBaby Marshall Islands



# *Kommol Tata!*

## Our Thanks for the wonderful support:

- Ruthiran Lokeijak, Special Education Director, RMI
- Teikla Enos, MOE Early Childhood SpED Supervisor
- Ministry of Education, RMI
- Helen J. David, EHDI Project Director, RMI
- Agnes Flood, NHS, Ministry of Health, RMI
- Katina & Talianna Peter and MISPA
- Bonny Taggart, Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOs)

## *Kommol Tata cont'd*

- Honorable Martha Campbell, US Ambassador to the RMI
- Eric Watnik, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, RMI
- Daisy Momotaro, Executive Director, WUTMI
- Ramona Levy-Strauss, President, WUTMI
- Miram Wase deBrum, Supervisor-PAT/Parents as Teachers, WUTMI
- SpED Teachers, Majuro Co-op School



# RSHALL ISLANDS

of-Blind and Hard of Hearing Babies and  
ir Families

MOH, MOE, WUTMI, MISPA and  
Detection and Intervention)



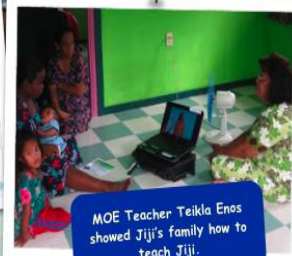
nap during her first day of baby  
ust, 2010. She was 3 ½ weeks old.

Hearing Detection and Intervention)  
ct of the Marshall Islands

OE, WUTMI, University of Hawai'i Center on Disabilities Studies, Kap'olani  
am, Gallaudet University Regional Center and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project



On Jiji's first day he took a nap  
while his family and friends  
learned Sign Language.



MOE Teacher Teikla Enos  
showed Jiji's family how to  
teach Jiji.

By EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) Project of the Marshall Islands

A collaborative project between MISPA, MOH, MOE, WUTMI, University of Hawai'i Center on Disabilities Studies, Kap'olani Community College-Interpreter Training Program,  
Gallaudet University Regional Center and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project

## EHDI PROJECT MARSHALL ISLANDS Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Bina received a Rairok School visit from EHDI teacher, Nancy Rushmer, and MOE  
teacher, Teikla Enos.



Bina (sitting at  
right end of  
front row) and  
her friends  
learned to sign  
"milk".

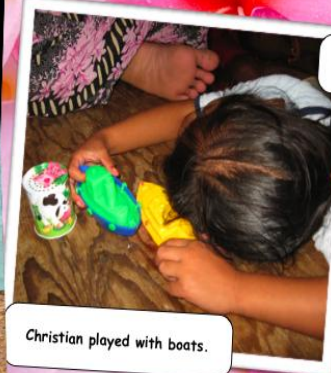


Bina and  
Teacher Neinan  
practiced Sign  
Language.

Bina and her  
kindergarten  
friends watched a  
Sign Language  
movie.



## EHDI Project teach Lujan, Liam and Ma Village, Majuro,



Christian played with boats.



Baby Liam likes the shaker toy.

By EHDI (Early Hearing Detect  
Project of the Marsh

A collaborative project between MISPA, MOH, MOE, WUTMI, Unive  
Community College-Interpreter Training Program, Gallaudet Univer