

## Parent/Guardian Permission Form 100 Babies Birth to Literacy Project

### Introduction and Purpose

It is not easy to learn that a child has been diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing, but we know that children who get the help they need early in life are ready to learn when they enter school, earn better grades and lead successful and productive lives. To make sure that all of Georgia's children get the attention they deserve, you and your child are invited to be a part of the *100 Babies Birth to Literacy Project*.

By becoming involved in *100 Babies*, you and your child will help Georgia health leaders create a plan with a clear goal – get all of our state's children reading well by the third grade – the age when many kids begin to have a harder time in school if they aren't reading at the same level as other kids their age. Becoming involved is easy and only requires your permission for state health workers to follow along as your child builds language and reading skills from now through the third grade. This is a new way for you to help shape the future of all of Georgia's children and the attached form describes what to expect if your child participates. Please read it carefully and ask questions before deciding if *100 Babies* is right for your child.

*100 Babies* is a pilot program started by Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D., the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with Georgia Pathway to Language and Learning and the Georgia Department of Education. Georgia Pathway is a coalition of professionals, advocates, and parents who serve deaf and hard of hearing children throughout the State of Georgia, including Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Pediatric Ear, Nose, and Throat of Atlanta, Atlanta Speech School, Auditory Verbal Center, Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services, Georgia State University, and the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. The purpose of this project is to create a statewide Birth to Literacy Plan to ensure that children diagnosed with hearing loss will be able to read as well as their classmates by third grade.

### What will you be asked to do?

Your permission will give us access to your child's medical and academic records, and allow us to share those records with the Department of Education and Georgia Pathway members involved in the program. Those records will be used to follow your child's language development and figure out if a child's health plays a part in school attendance and what affect that has on reading and overall school performance. You might even be contacted from time to time if there are follow-up questions about your child.

### What will your child be asked to do? For how long?

So that we can create the Birth to Literacy Plan, health workers will look at routine test results to know whether your child is meeting language development milestones from now through the third grade.

### How does my child benefit?

Being a part of *100 Babies* means that a team of people invested in the progress of your child are reviewing how well your child is receiving the care she needs and whether actions can be



taken to help make sure he is on target with language and reading skills. And by working with us, we take what we learn from your experience to make improvements so that future generations of children have access to better services and are ready to learn when they enter school.

**Costs associated with your child’s participation**

There will be no costs to you if your child participates in this project.

**Possible risks and discomforts**

The risks to your child are minimal and will not exceed the risks associated with normal daily activities.

**Confidentiality of records**

During this project, DPH will collect health and academic information about your child from doctors and other health care workers, and from the Georgia Department of Education. DPH will share a screened version of that information with Georgia Pathway members involved in the program for the purpose of tracking your child’s language skills and making recommendations for continued progress. Your child’s privacy is very important to us. The project team will follow strict rules to keep your child’s information confidential. We will not disclose your child’s name or identifying information except as may be required by law.

**Who should I call if I have questions?**

If you have questions about this project, please contact Kelly A. Hermanns, Au.D., at 404-463-3476 or [kelly.hermanns@dph.ga.gov](mailto:kelly.hermanns@dph.ga.gov).

**Voluntary participation**

Participating in this project is completely voluntary. You may withdraw your child at any time for any reason. To withdraw from this project please send a written notice to Kelly A. Hermanns, Au.D., UNHSI Program Consultant, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2 Peachtree St. NW, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

**Parental / Guardian Permission for Child**

I have read (or had read to me) the contents of this permission form and been given the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. I give my permission for my child to participate in the *100 Babies Birth to Literacy Project*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Child (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Parent / Guardian (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent / Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Witness (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Witness