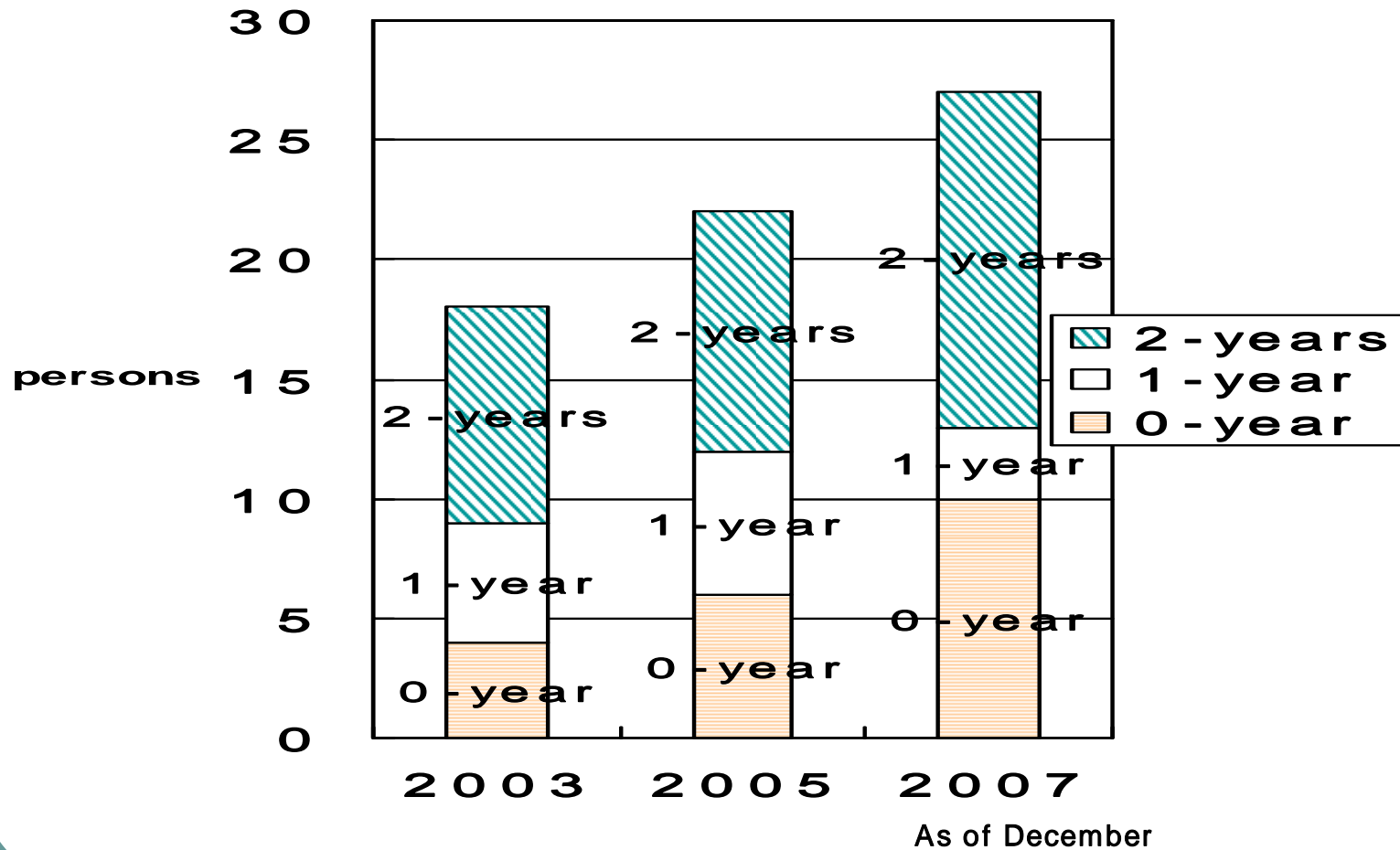


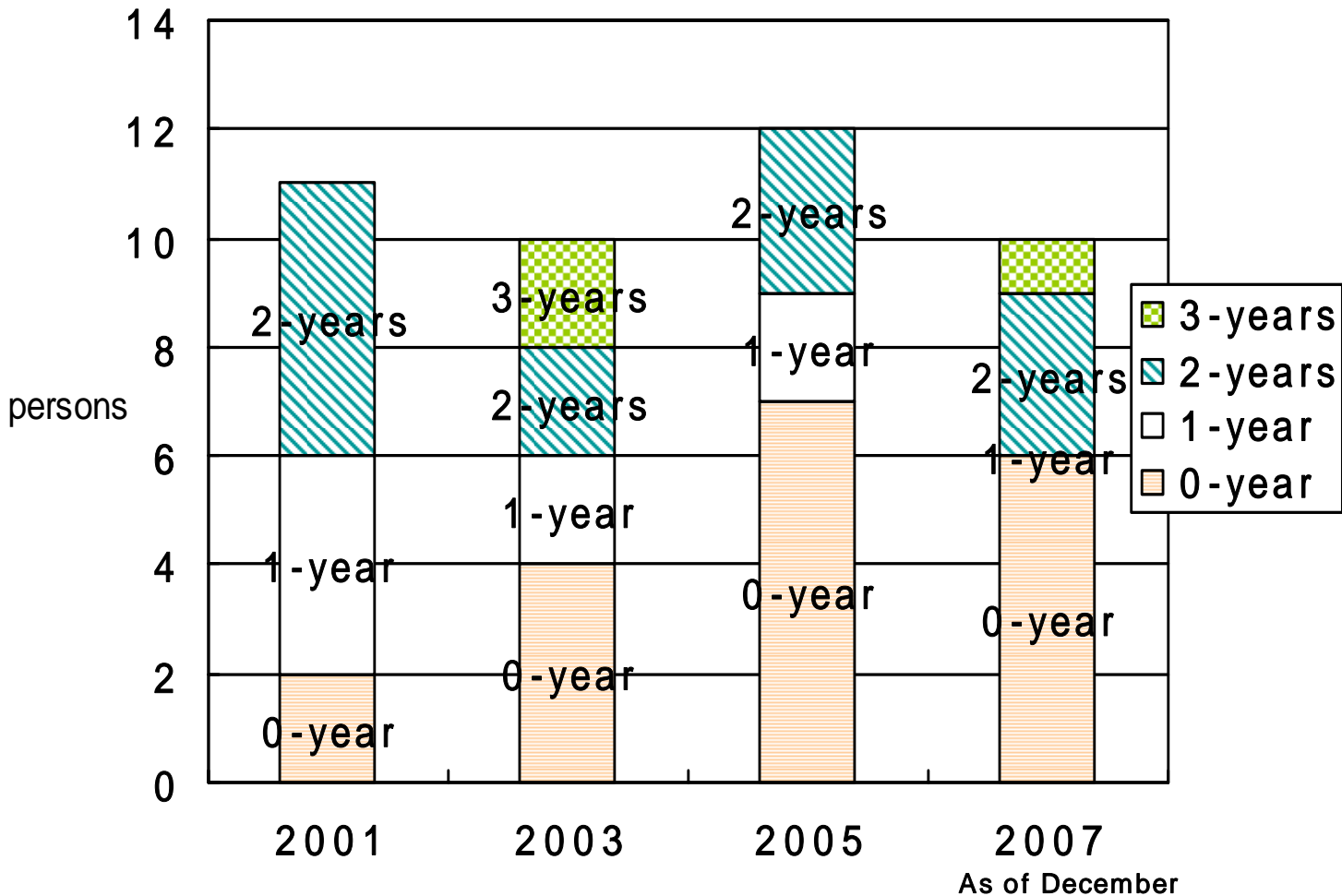
Assistance Program after Early Detection of Hearing Impairment

Parent Infant Program in Asahikawa School for the Deaf

Transition of the number of consulter by age



Transition of initial counseling by age



Approach of research study

(1) Case example of parental assistance at initial counseling

- ◆ 6 cases with different backgrounds such as an age diagnosed as hearing impairment and process to receive a guidance
- ◆ Assistance progress of initial counseling, after 3-months, and after 6-months

(Condition, problems, needs of parents and concrete assistance program for them)

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< Profile >

- 0 year old, Male
- Sensorineural hearing loss
- Binaural non-response to ABR

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< At initial counseling (at the age of 4-months) >

Conditions of the parent

- ◆ Psychologically agitated
- ◆ Explained from the doctor as follows;
“He won’t hear a sound with hearing aids on.
Cochlear implant is recommended.”
- ◆ Assuming that their infant cannot hear anything
- ◆ According to Internet or books, they sometimes think positive and negative.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< At initial counseling (at the age of 4-months) >

Needs from the parent

- (A) Reduction of the parent’s shock and anxiety
- (B) Sorting information which the parent has
- (C) Perspective of developmental education
- (D) Overall assistance in the community

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< At initial counseling: at the age of 4-months >

Assistance program

- (A) Listening to the parent with empathy toward their anxiety and shocks.
- (B) Explaining about characteristics of ABR, the result of COR, and the outline of cochlear implant. Recommending to wear hearing aids.
- (C) Explaining about outline of P.I.P assistance and program at kindergarten department.
- (D) Contacting with a nurse at local health institution to tell the necessity of the community support for the mother.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< After 3-months: at the age of 7-months >

Conditions of the parent

- ◆ Feeling that their infant didn't demand as much care as his sister.
- ◆ Feeling puzzled about their infant detaching hearing aids at home.
- ◆ Finding it not obviously effective to wear hearing aids.
- ◆ (Mother) Not accepting an offer to join a parenting circle suggested by a health nurse.
- ◆ When applying for “identification booklet for the handicapped”, suspicious about the diagnostic outcome, but not telling about it to the doctor in charge.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< After 3-months: at the age of 7-months >

Needs from the parent

- (A) Assistance for hearing aids and for observing auditory response.
- (B) Purchase application for hearing aids.
- (C) How to enjoy playing with their infant with empathy.
- (D) Setting up the opportunity to exchange among parents.
- (E) Links to medical/health institutions.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”

After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< After 3-months: at the age of 7-months >

Programs of assistance

- (A) Advising the parent to have enjoyable experiences when their infant putting hearing aids on. Explaining about his response to sound, changes in phonation, recognizable life sound, and know-how of sound play.
- (B) Asking the department of welfare of city government to give an explanation to the parent.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”

After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< After 3-months: at the age of 7-months >

Programs of assistance

- C) Explaining about their sympathy and feelings toward their infant could increase his expressions as well as their infant having started to show various expressions even just slightly.
- D) Advising the parent to join an event for the 0-year olds.
- E) Visiting the local pediatrics and otolaryngology to exchange information about further assistance for them.

Case example: OAE examination result is “refer.”
After 3-months of OAE, ABR result is sensorineural hearing loss

< After 6-months: at the age of 10-months >

Conditions of the parent

- ◆ Having started to realize that their infant was not always unable to hear a sound, since their infant came to wear hearing aids for some 10 minutes a couple of times a day.
- ◆ Having started to write comments that they have enjoyable communication in their child-care diary.

Tendency of parental feelings

Seen in 6 study cases;

About changes of parental feelings according to when impairment detected as follows;

- Right after giving assistance
- 6-months after giving assistance

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 1: Impairment detected through screening

- (Mother) Suffering from psychological anxiety after delivery.
- Puzzled without appropriate assistance after having the result “refer.”
- Assuming that their infant cannot hear anything, so they have less relationship with him/her.
- Not recognizing that their infant is hearing-impaired. (in case of moderate hearing level.)
- Losing their interest in other development than sense of hearing.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 1: Impairment detected through screening

6-months after giving assistance



- Anxiety of parents being eased by knowing the condition of their infant's impairment.
- Starting to look not only to auditory sense but to overall development of their infant.
- Able to grow their attachment for their infant by realizing his/her growth and good aspects.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 2: Impairment detected at the age of 1

- Not pessimistic about hearing impairment in case of parents' having an infant with other disorder.
- Feeling some difficulty in communicating with their infant, but not worrying seriously about relationship with him/her.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 2: Impairment detected at the age of 1

6-months after giving assistance



- Seeing clear about matters to consider.
- Starting to look at their infant's facial expression carefully, since parents find it important to accept his/her variety of expressions.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 3: Impairment detected at the age of 2

- Regretting delay of impairment detection.
- Recognizing difficulties of daily communication with their infant.
- Giving up trying to communicate with their infant, since they think that he/she cannot understand what they say.
- A tension seen in parent-child relationship.
- Puzzled how to discipline and communicate with their infant.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Case 3: Impairment detected at the age of 2

6-months after giving assistance



- Understanding enjoyment and necessity of communication with their infant.
- Anxiously wanting their infant to speak.
- Tending to drill language into their infant.
- Urged to make a decision to go to next educational / developmental-education institution.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Common tendencies

- Having unstable psychological condition due to anxiety of their infant's future as well as a great shock after knowing a diagnosis.
- Blaming themselves, and/or trying to find out causes of their infant's impairment.
- Discontented with a treatment, in spite of being explained about diagnosis outcome at a medical institute.
- Not able to grasp the conditions of their infant, since information which parents collect is often biased.

Psychological tendency of parents seen in case studies

Common tendencies

6-months after giving assistance



- Starting talking about the relationship with their infant and family concerns.
- Feeling mentally stable, since they have a place to sympathize among other parents.
- Starting to find both good aspects and problems of their infant through group activities.
- Feeling discontent to their family when they cannot get the understandings about hearing impairment within the family.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Case 1: Impairment detected through screening

- Feel sorry about their infant with hearing aids on.
- Both parents and infants feeling stressful with troubles about hearing aids such as detaching, chewing, and breaking.
- Finding it hard to find wear-effect, since it is not clear as well as reproducible.
- Confirming wear-effect by enjoying playing with their infant.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Case 1: Impairment detected through screening

6-months after giving assistance



- Understanding viewpoint of observing weak response or changes in phonation of their infant.
- Finding it important to communicate with their infant after putting hearing aids on him/her.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Case 2: Impairment detected at the age of 1-2

- Believing that their infant is able to speak with hearing aids on.
- Trying to speak to their infant from behind and/or to have a communication with speech language.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Case 2: Impairment detected at the age of 1-2

6-months after giving assistance



- Feeling happy about more utterance and expressions from their infant.
- Finding it necessary to exchange messages with various means, even when their infant is wearing hearing aids.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Common tendencies

- (Infants) Able to put hearing aids on for a certain period at home, but not preferring to wear it at home.
- (Parents) Feeling sad to recognize their infant with hearing impairment.
- (Parents) Feeling uncomfortable to take their infant outside with hearing aids on.

Parental feelings after their infant's wearing hearing aids

Common tendencies

6-months after assistance

- Finding wear-effect owing to response and changes in phonation of their infant.
- Coming to be able to enjoy relating with their infant through teaching him/her the meaning of sound.
- Easing negative feelings toward hearing aids by watching other pupils in the school.



Summary

- ◆ There are common tendencies about different feelings of parents and their concerns according to the age and the process when impairment detected.
- ◆ It is important to give assistance with looking to the whole family so that parents can have mental stability.
- ◆ More links with hospital, public health center, and developmental assistance center increase the number of regions which can lead to appropriate and early developmental education.

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