What is the history of Auditory Verbal practice?

In the late 1930s, three pioneering practitioners (Helen H. Beebe, Ciwa Griffiths and Doreen Pollack) began providing services that were the pre-cursors to AV therapy. Their services were strongly influenced by Max Goldstein (American Otologist) who proposed an acoustic method so children with hearing loss could learn through the auditory sense (Rhoades & Duncan, 2010).

- Late 1930s – Griffiths (Audiologist & Educator) developed the Auditory Approach and established a non-profit programme for families (Griffiths, 1967).
- 1940s – Doreen Pollack (Speech Therapist & Audiologist) & Henz Heuizig (Dutch Otologist) worked in the Columbia Medical Centre testing and fitting infants with hearing aids and developed a parental guidance programme. They termed the approach Acoupedics.

FIRST TECHNOLOGICAL ERA:
During the first technological era, the modern audiometer was manufactured and the monopac (body worn) hearing aid was developed. There was general movement towards pre-school education for all children, promoting early intervention for those with hearing loss.

- 1951 – Pollack moved to Denver, Colorado where she started a parent-infant programme.
- 1953 – Helen Beebe worked with Emil Froeschels (an Austrian physician) and developed the Unisensory Approach which relied on a child’s residual hearing to learn language through listening.

SECOND TECHNOLOGICAL ERA:
During the second technological era hearing aids became smaller and more powerful and began to be fitted to both ears. Pollack began to advance her new philosophy that deaf children could be taught to depend on their aided hearing and to learn spoken language like hearing children do.

- 1965 – Pollack became director of new speech and hearing centre in Denver, Colorado where she developed the Acoupaedic Programme.
- 1969 – Acoupaedics was copyrighted and described Pollack’s work. The goals and principles became the basis of the Auditory Verbal movement (see 1977).
- 1972 – The first Auditory Conference in Pasadena organised by Griffiths: Pollack met with Helen Beebe, Daniel Ling and others working in a similar way.
- 1977 – Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf in Washington DC suggested a meeting to form a coalition of AV practitioners who embraced the basic components of Acoupedics (Pollack, 1993). Daniel Ling proposed they use the term Auditory-Verbal to replace Acoupedics, Unisensory and Auditory Approach (Ling, 1993).
- 1978 The International Committee on Auditory Verbal Communication (ICAVC) was formed.
- 1986 – ICAVC became an independent, non-profit organization with the goal of increasing the availability of the approach. ICAVC evolved into Auditory Verbal International (AVI)
• 1994 – The first class of AVI professionals were certified following the development of a certification programme (Estabrooks, Maclver-Lux, Rhoades, 2016)\(^3\).
• 1996 – The first LSLS Certified AV therapist in the UK, Jacqueline Stokes, qualified as an Auditory Verbal therapist under Dr Daniel Ling.
• 2001 – The introduction of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme in UK which increased interest in early intervention.
• 2003 – Auditory Verbal UK (AVUK) was founded by Jacqueline Stokes to raise expectations for deaf children and to provide access to Auditory Verbal therapy for the first time in the UK.
• 2004 – Dissolution of AVI when AG Bell obtained the legal rights. AG Bell formed the Academy for Listening and Spoken Language in 2005.

References


