

EARLY INTERVENTION

Once your infant has been diagnosed with a hearing loss, it will be time to talk about early intervention (EI). EI programs are for children (0-3 years old) with delays and disabilities and their families. Its goal is to help babies learn skills that form during the first three years of life. Being in EI does not depend on your income. If your child is eligible for EI, then the law says that they have the right to receive it.



Together, you and your EI team will create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This plan will map out the services your child will get in EI to help your baby learn and grow. It will also say how and when the services will be received. The IFSP will state your child's current abilities and the specific goals for treatment. This plan is family-based so it is designed to support your whole family.

YOUR TEAM COULD INCLUDE:

- **Pediatric audiologist:** A trained provider that tests your child's hearing. They recommend hearing aids and other types of treatments.
- **Pediatrician:** Your child's doctor who will provide for his/her general health care needs.
- **Ear, Nose, & Throat (ENT) doctor:** A doctor who looks at problems with the ear, nose, or throat. They can find if there is a medical cause for your child's hearing loss and treat it, if possible.
- **EI Service Coordinator:** A provider who will help your family get services and help identify what you need. They make sure that providers are working together to meet those needs.
- **EI Specialist:** An educator that is trained to work with infants who have hearing loss.
- **Speech-language pathologist:** A trained provider that works with those who have speech and language difficulties.
- **Genetic counselor:** A provider who can review with you any possible genetic causes for your child's hearing loss

YOUR FAMILY SUPPORT COULD INCLUDE:

- **Parent guide:** Parents who also have a child with hearing loss that provide support for families. They are often matched with families so that they can share knowledge and support with hard feelings and choices.
- **Deaf guide:** Adults who are deaf and hard of hearing that provide support for families. They are part of the Deaf community and can share about Deaf culture

