

Where do we begin?

Contact a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC)

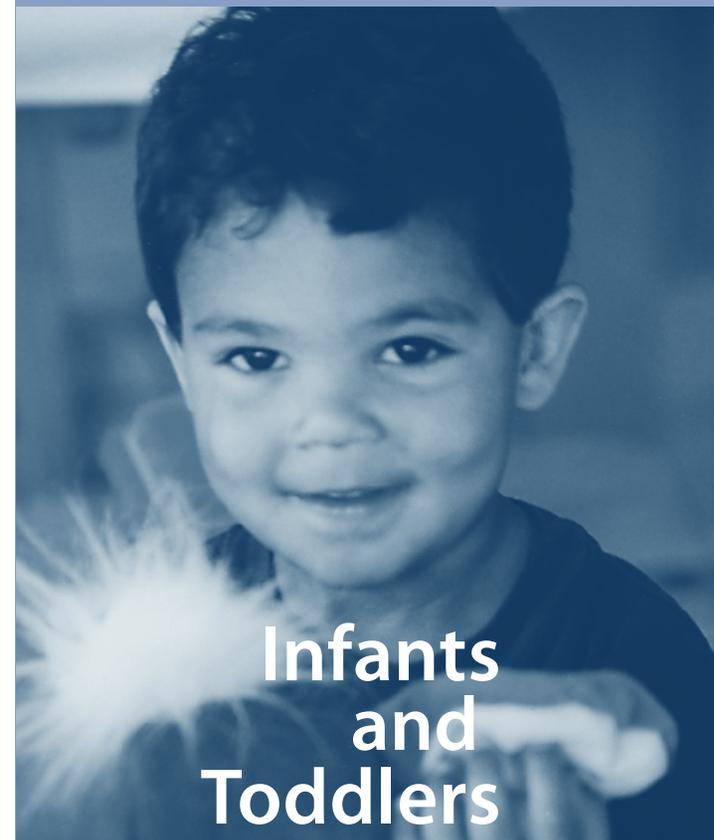
- The FRC can help you find information about:
 - Specialized services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss
 - Parent support and counseling
 - Funding
- To find the FRC in your area, call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 or through Relay Services by dialing 711 or go to the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers website at www.del.wa.gov/esit

Other resources:

- Boys Town National Research Hospital
www.babyhearing.org
402-498-6511 or TTY 402-498-6543
- Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)
www.del.wa.gov/esit
360-725-3500
- Hands and Voices
www.handsandvoices.org
217-357-3647
- Washington State Hands and Voices
www.wahandsandvoices.org
- Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)
<http://odhh.dshs.wa.gov>
360-902-8000 Voice/TTY
or 1-800-422-7930 Voice/TTY



Discrimination is prohibited in all programs and activities: No one shall be excluded on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, age or handicap.



Infants and Toddlers

who are
Deaf
or Hard of Hearing

For help
and information...

www.del.wa.gov/esit

Introduction

You have just learned that your child has a hearing loss. This may be an overwhelming time, but you are not alone. There is help and support available for your child and family.

You probably have many questions. This pamphlet will help you find answers and begin to explore the choices available for your child and family.

This is a start. You and your child will be learning along the way. We hope this pamphlet is helpful, now and in the future.



Supports and Resources

“After we took advantage of the wonderful early intervention services available to us, we discovered how hopeful our daughter’s future really was.”

– Bob K., Spokane, WA
Father of 6 year old Katie

Your child will learn to communicate

Families can help their child learn communication, speech, and language skills by using a variety of approaches and tools. Early, consistent use of hearing aids or cochlear implants, along with specialized supports, can help your child develop listening and spoken language. Early use of visual communication can help your child develop communication and language skills, both spoken and signed. Your early intervention team can help you explore your options, find qualified specialists and resources, and discover the combination of tools and approaches that works best for your child and family.

Below is a list of professionals who may provide services for a child and family

Audiologists are specialists trained to test hearing. The audiologist recommends and fits hearing aids and other listening devices.

Aural Rehabilitation Specialists develop your child’s listening skills and help you learn skills to support your child in learning spoken language.

Counselors/Therapists give emotional support for children and families. You might choose to see a counselor or therapist to help with emotional issues surrounding your child’s hearing loss. It’s also good to connect with and learn from other families who have gone through this before.

Early Intervention Specialists work with families of children with communication and learning needs. They work with children birth to 3 years of age. They may also perform evaluations and assessments of your child’s abilities.

Family Resources Coordinators (FRC) help families with children under 3 years of age decide what services they need and how to pay for services.

Ear, Nose and Throat (Otolaryngologists) Doctors are specialists who diagnose and treat ear infections and other medical conditions involving the external, middle, and inner ear.

Speech Language Pathologists provide therapy to facilitate your child’s development of speech and language skills.

Teachers of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing are certified to teach children with hearing loss. Some have additional training and experience in working with families of infants and toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Many other therapists, such as physical therapists, are available to support your child’s growth as determined by his or her developmental needs.