

Checklist for Supporting Families When a Child is Identified with a Permanent Hearing Loss



If you are serving families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, you can play a critical role in helping them to find the resources and information they need. Resources are also available to you as the child's education provider. Here is a simple checklist of questions to ask yourself that will help you as you assist families:

- Do I know basic information about children with hearing loss?
- Do I know the resources that are available in my area/state for children who are deaf/hard of hearing?
- Is the child's primary care provider (Medical Home) fully informed about all diagnoses, follow-up and intervention activities?
- Has the child received appropriate medical specialty evaluations to help determine the cause of the loss and the type of treatment needed?
 - Otolaryngology evaluation to determine the cause of the loss and to identify related medical conditions that may affect treatment?
 - Ophthalmological evaluation to assess vision?
 - Medical genetics consultation to help determine the cause of the loss and the potential for related conditions?
- Have the child's siblings been screened for hearing loss?
- Is a pediatric audiologist periodically evaluating/monitoring the child's hearing and the adequacy and benefits of amplification?
- Has the family been connected with Part C/Early Intervention and with the State Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program?
(Early intervention provides service coordination to help families access community resources that are appropriate for infants/toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing and their family.)
http://www.infanthearing.org/coordinator_orientation/section8/35_part_c_idea.pdf
- Am I aware of what the family is choosing in terms of technology options? (hearing aids, FM systems, cochlear implants, etc.) Do I know how to check to ensure that the technology is functioning as it should?
- Am I aware of what the family is choosing in terms of communication options? (signing, speaking, cueing, etc.)
http://www.infanthearing.org/coordinator_orientation/section14/50_cwyc_englsh.pdf
- Has the family been connected with other families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing? www.handsandvoices.org, www.agbell.org, www.deafchildren.org
- Has the family received support from professionals and other families in making educational and early intervention decisions?