

Care Plan

for Infants who are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Child's Name _____ Child's Date of Birth _____



Now that you have learned your child has hearing loss, this care plan can help you understand the next steps.

- **Continue to have your baby see his or her primary care provider** for well child exams.
- **Ask your baby's audiologist about early intervention services.** The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program provides services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities, including hearing loss (birth to three years of age). A Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) can help you access services such as family training, counseling, and other early intervention services your child and family may need—including specialized help to meet the unique communication needs of infants and toddlers with hearing loss.

Every community has an early intervention program (it may be called an early learning program). The FRC in your community will help you with early intervention services eligibility for your child. To locate the Lead FRC in your county, call the Family Health Hotline at **1-800-322-2588**. Or you can find your county's Lead FRC by visiting: <http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/esit/docs/ContactsDirectory.pdf>
- ***Infants and Toddlers Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* is a state brochure for families** who have just learned their child has hearing loss. It can be found at: <http://del.wa.gov/publications/esit/>
- **Contact family support groups:**
 - Washington State Guide By Your Side: 425-268-7087
 - Washington State Parent to Parent: 1-800-821-5927
 - Washington State Father's Network: 425-653-4286
- **Learn more about the type of communication options available.** The Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss (CDHL) can provide you with information about the different ways a child can learn language. Someone at the CDHL can work with you and your Family Resources Coordinator to help you explore communication options. Contact the CDHL at: 1-800-613-4228.

Care Plan continued

- **Make sure you have the Hearing Loss Helper Guide.** This notebook includes stories from other parents, tools to help stay organized, and information about hearing loss, communication options, and early intervention services. The Hearing Loss Helper Guide is a free resource. You can get it from your audiologist or download it at www.doh.wa.gov/earlyhearingloss.
- **If you choose amplification for your infant,** have your baby fitted with hearing aids. If needed, find out about loaner hearing aids. An evaluation by an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor needs to be done before your child can be fitted with hearing aids.



ENT Clinic _____ Date _____

- **Continue with regular visits to a pediatric audiologist** to check your baby's hearing and hearing devices. Pediatric audiologists are specially trained to evaluate and provide care for infants.
- **Consider a genetic consultation.*** A genetic consultation will determine if your child has any other health issues that may be associated with hearing loss and can help you learn if your child's hearing loss may run in your family.

Medical geneticist/genetic consultant _____ Date _____

- **Contact other medical specialists*** (eye, heart, etc.) as needed.

Specialist _____ Date _____

Specialist _____ Date _____

To learn more, please visit: www.doh.wa.gov/earlyhearingloss and www.babyhearing.org



* You will usually need a referral from your health care provider to see these specialists.

The Early Hearing Loss, Detection, Diagnosis & Intervention (EHDDI) Program

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