

An Otolaryngologist's Legal Responsibility for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Refer deaf or hard of hearing children within seven days of diagnosis

Did you know that as an otolaryngologist you have a [*legal obligation*](#) to make a referral to your state's Early Intervention program as soon as possible, but no later than seven (7) calendar days after the child has been identified with a permanent hearing loss? This applies to all children from birth to three (3) years of age.



Rationale

Children who are born deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) are at risk for developmental delay because they may lack early exposure to an accessible language. In addition, some D/HH children may be born with other conditions that also result in a developmental delay. You will help D/HH children have better outcomes by referring them to timely Early Intervention.

The sooner you refer, the sooner the infant or child who is D/HH will receive the necessary services to help the child reach his or her full potential.

How to refer

To locate your local Early Intervention program, contact

- The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center <http://ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp>

OR

- Your state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program.
<http://www.infanthearing.org/status/cnhs.php>

For more information on Early Intervention: go to <http://ectacenter.org/partc/303regs.asp>

My local Early Intervention program's number is: