



Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Early Intervention Team

Names of Early Interventionists: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

Early intervention is a program for children from birth to 3 years of age who have a developmental delay. Some states also provide services for children who are "at risk" for developmental delay. Children with hearing loss typically need early intervention services. An early interventionist, a specialist who works with infants and toddlers, will help identify your child's needs and create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This plan will be used to provide your child with the services he or she needs.

Early intervention services support families to help their children reach their full potential. These services can be offered through a public or private agency. Your child may receive services at home, a clinic, a daycare center, a hospital, or the local health department. Following a federal law called "Part C" of The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states decide which children will qualify for services.

Each state has an agency that coordinates services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss or other special needs. Once your child is diagnosed with hearing loss, an early intervention coordinator or someone from your state's agency will contact you. If you do not receive a call, or would like to know more about intervention services in your state, you can call the state office and ask to speak with the agency that serves children with special needs. The state number can be found in your local phone book under "State Government", or on the Web at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-contacts.html>.

For more information about children's hearing visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss



It is important that children with hearing loss begin early intervention services as soon as possible. The goal is to start early intervention no later than 6 months of age or within 3 months of the hearing test result. With appropriate intervention services and support, you child will develop communication and language skills that will last a lifetime.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Questions you may want to ask your child's early intervention team:

- 1. What is early intervention? What services do you provide?
- 2. Can you describe the intervention activities to me?
- 3. How long and how often are the intervention activities?
- 4. Where do I bring my child for the intervention activities?
- 5. Why is it so important for my child to start intervention this early?
- 6. How much will early intervention services cost?
- 7. How do you help my child learn how to communicate?
- 8. Can you tell me about sign language?
- 9. Are there other ways my child can learn to communicate or talk?
- 10. Does your program have staff trained to work with very young infants and toddlers with hearing loss?
- 11. Will you send my child's progress reports to his or her doctor and the state (or territorial) newborn hearing screening (EHDI) program?
- 12. Where can I meet other families who have young children with hearing loss?
- 13. Where can I learn more about children with hearing loss?
- 14. What will happen when my child is too old for your program? What do you mean by transition?
- 15. What is Part B? What is Head Start?

After talking with the early intervention team, I/we learned:
