

What Do We Do Today?

Love Your Baby and Enjoy Them!!!!

The first few weeks and months after you have learned about your child's hearing loss can be a busy and overwhelming time. Here are some ideas to help you:

INTERACT AND COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD.

Some parents find that talking to their child feels "different" because they aren't sure how much their child is hearing. You don't have to wait to start working on communication. Communicate with your baby as you normally would.

- Use a natural voice.
- Babies do respond to the special intonation patterns and facial expressions we reserve just for them.
- Lots of eye contact, touch, hugs, and kisses help babies learn how to interact.
- Face-to-face conversations are good for all babies, but especially for babies with hearing loss.
- Your child needs to watch your mouth move, and watch your facial expressions.
- Be sure to stay close and face-to-face when communicating with your child.

Babies learn from routines you have and the things you do and say in everyday life. Your child will benefit from your communication as you do tasks such as change a diaper, give a bath, and play games like peek-a-boo.

SEEK SUPPORT FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

People who are close to you can be a great support. Your friends and family may share your feelings and opinions about what is best for your child. They may also have differences. Invite the support people in your child's life to participate in visits to the audiologist, early intervention visits, and parent group meetings.

Friends



family

KEEP A JOURNAL

A journal is a place where you can write down important things about your child.

- Write down sounds that your child responds to or new vocalizations your child makes. As your child changes and grows, you will be able to see how far she has come!
- Write down questions to ask professionals when you meet them.
- Write down the feelings and experiences you are having.
- A notebook such as one that holds this guide is a great place for keeping copies of clinical reports and important forms for your child. When you go to appointments, it will be easy to show others results or have them make copies if needed.