

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.

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.

Friends



family

ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Early intervention begins soon after your baby has been diagnosed with hearing loss.

Intervention will be provided by Infant Toddler Services in or near your community. Early intervention for children with hearing loss can help to build a successful future and ensure that their full potential will be reached. A rich and full life awaits these children, especially when given full access to language right from birth.

*In the state of Kansas, ALL children identified with hearing loss regardless of the type or the amount of loss are automatically eligible to receive early intervention services through their local Infant Toddler/tiny-k programs at **no cost to the family.***

THERE ARE TWO MAIN GOALS OF EARLY INTERVENTION:

Help the baby who is deaf or hard of hearing learn to communicate, to use any available hearing and to interact socially. All children learn skills best at certain ages. During these “sensitive periods,” your baby’s brain is ready to learn. If these opportunities for learning are missed, it will be more difficult to learn the skills later on.

Help your baby become a fully participating member of the family.

Everyone in the family is important to your baby’s development, especially in developing language and social skills. For example, you’ll want your baby to know what your family talks about at mealtime and what big brother and sister did at school.

Early intervention begins with a visit from an infant/family specialist. She or he is part of a team of professionals. Depending on your child’s needs these may include an audiologist, speech and language therapist, teacher of the deaf, primary care physician, school district representative, an advocate of your choice and/or other professionals that meet your child’s needs. The most important part of the team is you!

Infant/family specialists know ways to help your baby develop some skills at the same age that hearing children do. She or he may help your child listen with hearing aids or a cochlear implant.



The infant/family specialist also will show you how to give your baby chances to look at your face for gestures and signs so your baby can understand the language you use to communicate about everyday life. Your infant/family specialist will help you feel confident when you play with your baby and respond to things your baby finds interesting.

Your specialist is a trained professional who has knowledge about hearing loss and its effect on a child's communication development. The primary goal of your specialist is to help you communicate with your child and encourage his or her development.

Your specialist will work closely with you to identify your needs and set priorities for your baby, help you locate resources, and answer your questions.

You and your specialist will schedule regular visits to take place in your home or another natural environment.

Get More Information

**Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services
Infant-Toddler Services**

785-296-6135

800-332-6262

www.ksits.org