



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.



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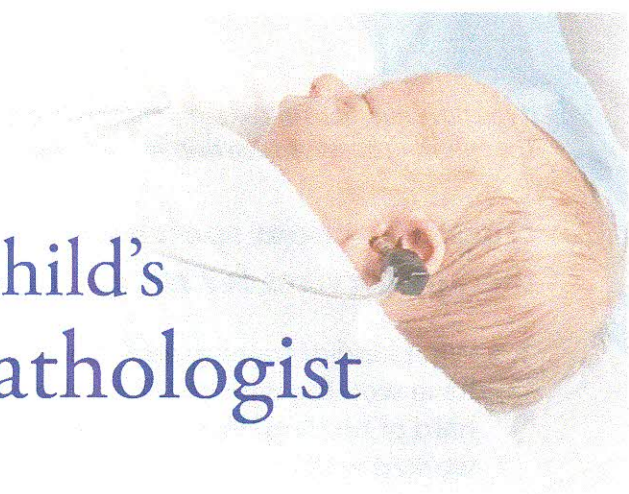
Questions you may want to ask your child’s early intervention team:

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

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?

EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM QUESTIONS

Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Speech-Language Pathologist



Names of Speech-Language Pathologist: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

A speech-language pathologist (SLP), sometimes called a speech therapist, is a person trained to test and work with people with speech and language problems.

If your child has a hearing loss, you will likely work with a speech-language pathologist (SLP). The SLP, sometimes called a speech therapist, will help your family decide the best therapy approach for your child. The therapy approach can differ depending on how much hearing problem your child has. Some SLPs focus on spoken language only, while others focus on spoken language and sign language.

The SLP may work with your family and a team of professionals, such as an audiologist, an ear, nose, and throat doctor (ENT), an early intervention specialist, and a teacher of the deaf to provide you and your child with the best services you need.

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



See some of our other tip cards for information about other professionals at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/freematerials.html

Among SLPs, one who has training and experience to work with infants and young children with hearing loss will offer the best care for your child.



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If you have questions or concerns about the care your child receives, you may want to schedule a longer appointment. The following questions can help you better understand your child's condition and the type of care he or she may receive.

Questions about speech and language therapy services for my child:

After talking with the speech-language pathologist, I/we learned:

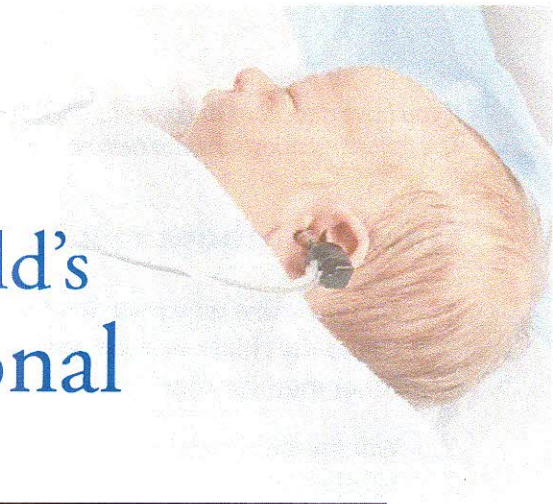
- 1. What kind of training and experience do you have working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing? What age group have you worked with?
- 2. What communication option(s) do you use in therapy (for example: Signing Exact English (SEE), American Sign Language (ASL), Cued Speech, Auditory-Verbal, etc.)? What is your experience and comfort level using these communication options?
- 3. How do you test my child's speech and language development? How often will you check my child's progress?
- 4. How do you decide the amount of time my child will spend on speech production, language (spoken or signed), and auditory (hearing) training?
- 5. What are my costs for the different types of therapies? Where do I go to get help with these costs?
- 6. Can I observe a speech therapy session with another child who has hearing loss?

Questions to help my child at home:

- 1. Can you tell me where I can learn more about the different types of communication options?
- 2. What tips can I use or activities can I do to support my child's communication at home?
- 3. Can you suggest any other resources in the community for our family?

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST QUESTIONS

Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Medical Professional



Names of Medical Professional: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

Medical professionals are trained to diagnose and treat medical conditions in people. Examples include pediatricians, family physicians, primary care doctors, and nurse practitioners.

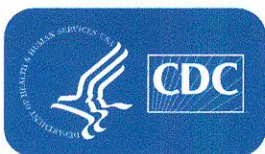
For more information about children's hearing visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss



Medical professionals are trained to diagnose and treat medical conditions in people. Examples include pediatricians, family physicians, primary care doctors, and nurse practitioners. Your child's medical professional oversees your child's overall growth, health, and development. You might see your child's medical professional in an office, clinic, or hospital.

This person will coordinate all areas of your child's medical care. In addition to receiving routine care, a child with hearing loss may need to see specialists who will look at the child's specific health needs. These specialists may look at eyes, language or speech needs, genetics, or other areas. Your child's medical professional will help decide which specialists your child should see and when to see them. In this way, your child will receive coordinated care by all of his or her medical professionals.

This model of working together is sometimes referred to as a 'medical home'.



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If you have questions or concerns about the care your child receives, you may want to schedule a longer appointment. The following questions can help you better understand your child's condition and the type of care he or she may receive.

Questions about medical services for my child:

1. Do you know why my child has hearing loss? Could my child's hearing loss be related to any other medical conditions? Could it be genetic?
2. Will my child need more tests because of the hearing loss? For example, brain scans (CT, MRI) or blood or urine tests? What will these tests tell you about my child's hearing loss?
3. Are there other specialists knowledgeable about childhood hearing loss my child should see?
4. How do I get referrals to see other specialists if my child needs their services (e.g., speech, audiology, ENT, genetic, ophthalmology)? To get the referrals, do I need an appointment with you first or can I request them by calling your office?
5. If I have problems with the referrals, or if my insurance company has questions, what should I do? Can your office help me?
6. Have you received any reports about my child's hearing loss (for example, from audiology, ENT)?
7. How do we ensure other specialists' reports will be shared with you? Will I get copies of other specialists' reports?
8. What is a "medical home"?
9. Are there any medications that can harm my child's hearing?
10. Will ear infections or fluid in the ears affect my child's hearing loss? Should the condition be treated differently because of my child's hearing loss?
11. Will you need to see my child more often because of the hearing loss? How often?
12. Other than my child's hearing loss, do you have other concerns about my child's development? Is his or her development on target?
13. Can you tell me about early intervention services that are available in my area?
14. Do you know of any additional community resources or support groups?

Your medical professional may send your child to some or all of the following specialists:

Ophthalmologist: A doctor who specializes in eyes.

Otolaryngologist: A doctor who specializes in the ear, nose, and throat. This professional is often called an ear, nose and throat doctor or ENT.

Geneticist: A professional who specializes in genetics and the different medical conditions (including hearing loss) that might be related to genetics.

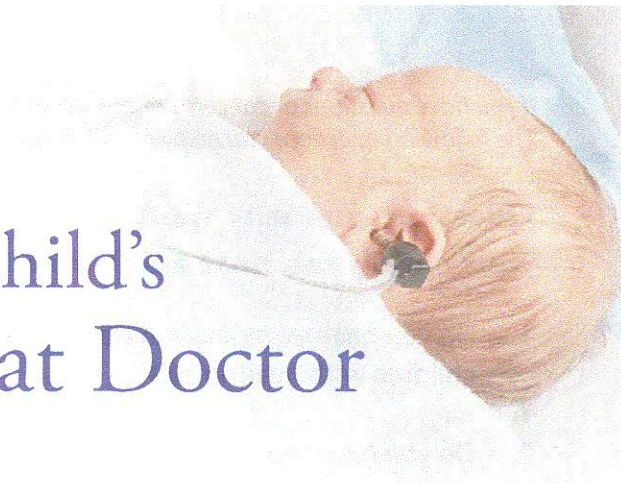
Audiologist: A professional trained to test hearing.

Speech-language pathologist: A professional trained to test and work with children with speech and language problems.

Early intervention provider: A person who provides support services for families and children from birth to 3 years of age, who have or are at risk for developmental delays.

Please see our other tip cards for information about some of these professionals.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS



Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor

Names of Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

Test Name: _____

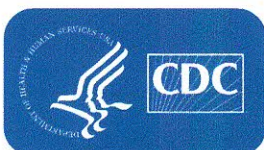
A pediatric ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctor is a specialist trained to diagnose and treat children with ear, nose, or throat conditions.

An ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctor (also called an otolaryngologist) may be able to tell you if there is a medical condition in your child's outer, middle, or inner ear that may have caused the hearing loss. The ENT will ask you questions and do a medical examination of your child. The doctor can also answer any questions about medical treatments. Please see some of our other tip cards for information about other professionals, such as audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and early intervention specialists who may provide services your child needs.

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



The best care for your child will be provided by ENTs who have training and experience to evaluate and treat infants and young children.



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Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Genetics Team



Names of Geneticist and Genetic Counselor: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

A “genetics team” is made up of a clinical geneticist, a genetic counselor, and other health care professionals. A clinical geneticist is a doctor who specializes in diagnosing and caring for people with genetic conditions. A genetic counselor is a health care professional who talks with people about the risk for genetic conditions and provides counseling and support. Members of the genetics team work together during a genetics exam.

The purpose of a genetic testing or exam is to find out if the cause of your child’s hearing loss is genetic. About sixty percent of all hearing loss in babies is caused by changes in genes. Genes contain the instructions that tell a person’s cells how to grow and support the body. Some changes in a gene can cause hearing loss. Hearing loss can also be caused by infections, certain medication, and risks such as prolonged loud noise in the environment. For many children, the cause of hearing loss may not be known.

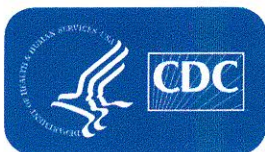
The genetics team will ask you questions about your child and family. They will do a complete physical exam and may recommend that your child and you have a blood test. They may suggest your child see another doctor or specialist to help them better understand the cause of your child’s hearing loss. Knowing the cause may help you and all the professionals who work with your child better plan for his/her future needs. They may also be able to inform you and your family of the chance of having another child with hearing loss.

Sometimes the cause of a child’s hearing loss cannot be found even after a complete evaluation. The genetics team will work with you

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



The genetics team will work together to offer the best advice and care for you and your child.



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

1. Will a genetic exam or test tell me the cause of my child's hearing loss? What are some common genetic causes of hearing loss?
2. Why should I try to find out the cause of my child's hearing loss? How can this information help my child?
3. What will the results of genetic testing tell me? Does a negative test result mean that my child's hearing loss is not genetic?
4. Can the results of genetic testing tell me if my child's hearing loss will get better or worse?
5. How will genetic tests be done? What other kinds of tests are needed in order to find out the cause of my child's hearing loss?
6. Will my child need to come back to your office after testing? If so, why?
7. Why is it important to know if members of my family have hearing loss, what type of hearing loss, and when they started developing the hearing loss?
8. How is hearing loss inherited?
9. If no one in my family has hearing loss, how can my child's hearing loss be genetic?
10. Should my other children have genetic testing, too? Why?
11. If I have another child, what is the chance that he or she will have hearing loss?
12. Should I share test results with other members of my family? Could other people in my family also have children with hearing loss?
13. Where can I learn more about genetic testing for hearing loss?
14. Where do I meet other families whose children have the same type of genetic condition as my child?

After talking with the genetics team, I/we learned:
