

8

Reasons to Say Yes to Early Intervention for Your Child Who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing

...What Are You Waiting For?



1. Early Intervention is worth the time.

Early Intervention (EI) is the term used to describe the services and supports that are available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. Early Intervention will help you incorporate language development and needed supports for your child into your daily routines. Research shows early involvement can help your child avoid language delays. Starting EI now will help you and your child on the path to future success.

2. We are in this together.

Feeling overwhelmed or isolated? Professionals and other parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) kids can share this journey with you and support you. A whole community is ready to embrace you. Hearing other families' experiences can help you think ahead through your own journey.



3. Early Involvement will help your other family members.

As you understand your own child's needs through EI, your child's siblings, extended family, friends and neighbors can learn to better communicate with and include your child. If your circle of support is small, EI helps build a larger circle to surround your family.

4. There is more to this than just 'Google it'.

With a seemingly endless world of resources, articles, videos, online support, podcasts and more, where is the wisdom? A personal connection to EI providers can help you process the information available at your fingertips with what you know and can try with your own child.



5. Facing your fears will bring freedom.

You may feel like you don't know anything about what being D/HH might mean for your child. You may not see your family as part of this world. A "new normal" can be a life of joy and better than imagined.



6. You will ask better questions.

With a seemingly endless world of resources, articles, videos, online support, podcasts and more, where is the wisdom? A personal connection to EI providers can help you process the information available at your fingertips with what you know and can try with your own child.



7. You can do this in the context of your own family's values.

You can adapt services to be in line with your family's values and goals for your child's future, provided in your language and cultural context. A system is in place to ensure that EI providers and programs are a match to your family and child's needs.



8. You will gain confidence that you are your child's best advocate.

You will become your child's best advocate in the school years by learning about deafness, language and development through EI. Your advocacy will light the path for your child's success.

For more information or to get connected to your local early intervention program, contact:

Liz Schardine, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Coordinator
785-368-7167 • Elizabeth.Schardine@ks.gov

Heather Staab, Part C Education and Outreach Coordinator
785-213-6764 • Heather.Staab@ks.gov

