

EHDI Family Connect

Early Intervention

Early Intervention helps you learn how to teach your baby language when your baby has hearing loss.

The goal is for your baby to arrive at Kindergarten ready to learn, not still learning language.

It's your role to teach your baby language, early intervention will support you!

STEP 1: The Referral At the time of your baby's diagnosis, your Audiologist and the EHDI program sent a referral to Indiana's Early Intervention Program, called "**First Steps**". This is called a referral and starts a 45 calendar day timeline for the system.

_____ Date of Referral – Your child's Individualized Family Service Plan should be complete 45 days from this date.

STEP 2: Intake ~First Steps will come to your home

- Discuss family concerns for child
- Explain First Steps (FS), its services and processes
- Explain family rights and procedural safeguards for every step of the process (you should receive a copy of your rights at this meeting) [link to rights]
- Collect necessary documentation and complete paperwork to proceed with assessment and evaluation

_____ Date, Time, and Location of Intake Meeting

_____ Name and Contact Information of Service Coordinator

STEP 3: Assessment

Appointments are scheduled for the Assessment Team to conduct assessment activities to provide more information for the (IFSP) Individualized Family Service Plan Meeting (see Step 4)

_____ Assessment Date, Time, and Location.

Babies who have a diagnosed hearing loss ARE eligible for First Steps Early Intervention in the State of Indiana. This includes all hearing levels, unilateral, sensory neural and auditory neuropathy. However, a child with a diagnosis may be eligible and not currently in need of services; in that case, you will receive information on your rights, your child's current developmental level, community supports/services, and how to contact the system should you have further concerns or your child's status changes.

STEP 4: Developing Goals and a Plan for Service

Your

Service Coordinator will contact you and the other team members to set up meetings at mutually convenient times and places to

- Discuss the Assessment (babies with a diagnosed hearing loss are eligible for First Steps)
- Develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Be prepared to discuss YOUR FAMILY'S GOALS for your baby!
- **Sample IFSP Outcomes for deaf or hard of hearing babies are attached**

_____ Date of IFSP Meeting

Who should attend these meetings?

- You, the Family, and Your Invited Guests (Parent Guide)
- Service Coordinator
- Assessment Team Member who can explain your child's assessment and evaluation

STEP 5: Services Providers Selected

IFSP Meeting is completed and Service Coordination of the Plan begins

- **You chose**

1. Service Coordinator is single point of contact to coordinate all services, provide financial case management and advocacy support, identify resources in the community, and coordinate transitions
2. The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Network (CDHHE) is a network of providers that has specialized training in working with babies who are deaf or hard of hearing.
3. You can choose services outside First Steps, and still retain service coordination and have an IFSP

_____ Name and Contact Info of FS Service Coordinator

_____ Name of Provider _____ Specialty

_____ Name of Provider _____ Specialty

_____ Name of Provider _____ Specialty

STEP 6: Physician's Signature

Signature from Physician on IFSP agreeing with services is required before ongoing services can begin (Required within 10 days from IFSP date – Service Coordinator is responsible for getting the signature).

STEP 7: Services Begin

Ongoing services can begin [All services should begin within 30 days of IFSP (date _____)]

_____ Service _____ Date Began

_____ Service _____ Date Began

_____ Service _____ Date Began

Families can ask for an evaluation of their IFSP at any time, but the assessment team reviews services at least every six months and agree to add/continue services.

** ** Possible co-pay for services up to a monthly maximum on a sliding scale based on family income, family size, medical expenses, insurance coverage, and extenuating circumstances (speak to Service Coordinator to determine family co-pays)