

Connections

A publication of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Volume 9, Issue 4

Early Intervention



Why start early intervention before six months of age?

An infant's brain development begins at birth and rapidly begins building connections based on input and interactions with their caregivers. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing position statement cites research that tells us children who begin specialized early intervention services before 6 months of age are able to develop language equal to that of their hearing peers by kindergarten.

"Providing children and families the earliest possible start in intervention is considered best practice (Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, 2013; Moeller et al., 2013).

Early interventions are widely recognized as a means to provide infants access to linguistic input, whether through spoken and/or sign language. Access to linguistic input is regarded as essential for successful communication and language development."

Did you know?

Brain architecture

"In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections form every second. Early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health.

During this time period, which is considered a critical window for language development, children need optimal access to linguistic input."

[CLICK HERE](#)

Indiana EHDI facts

One to three of every 1,000 babies are identified as deaf or hard of hearing.

Of all screenings done at birth, hearing loss is the most prevalent.

2021 data

- Total births: 81,075
- Referred from hearing screening: 3,582
- Identified as deaf/hard of hearing: 198

Specialized services through the CDHHE network

All of the providers in the [CDHHE network](#) are specialists who work with deaf and hard of hearing children in their respective roles, including audiologists, deaf mentors, listening and spoken language specialists and parent advisors. Services are added to a family's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) based on their desired outcome for their child and their child's unique needs. Indiana's early intervention system, [First Steps](#), has a coordinated system that initiates enrollment as all deaf and hard of hearing children are considered eligible. CDHHE providers deliver ongoing services with families and help introduce families to a community of support.



Reasons to start early

- Time spent early incorporating language strategies, can help avoid later language delays
- Families become better equipped to ask better questions
- Early intervention is done in the child's natural environment and in the context of the family's values and goals for their child

Learn More

Center on the Developing Child

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/guide/what-is-early-childhood-development-a-guide-to-the-science/>

Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language & Learning Center (FL3)

<https://handsandvoices.org/fl3/resources/8reasons-ehdi.html>

Hearing First

<https://www.hearingfirst.org/>

Indiana First Steps

<https://indianafirststeps.org/>

Joint Committee on Infant Hearing

<http://www.jcih.org/posstatemts.htm>

National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)

<https://www.infanthearing.org/>

Thirty Million Words

<https://tmwcenter.uchicago.edu/>

Visual Language Visual Learning (VL2)

<https://vl2.gallaudet.edu/research-briefs>

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers