

Next Steps for Children with Hearing Loss: A Checklist for Parents

In the next few weeks:

- If your child is between the ages of 0 and 3 years old, contact Michigan Early-On to start educational services at 1-800-327-5966. If your child is older, talk to your audiologist about educational recommendations for your child's local school system.

- Schedule follow-up appointments with a pediatric audiologist and an ear-nose-throat (ENT) doctor to monitor your child's hearing. To make an appointment, contact our call center at 734-936-8051.

- If recommended, talk to your child's audiologist about the use of hearing aids or a bone conduction device. Depending on your child's diagnosis, your audiologist may also discuss an appointment at the Cochlear Implant program.

- Check with your insurance company to find out if hearing aids are a covered benefit. If they are not, talk to your child's audiologist about signing up for Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) during your child's next appointment. For more information visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) page:
http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_35698-15087--,00.html

In the coming months:

- If you have other children, schedule a hearing test for each child.
Hearing loss is often genetic. It is important that all siblings have their hearing checked.

- To help your family create the best communication plan for your child, schedule an aural rehabilitation evaluation with an auditory-verbal speech language pathologist. Call 734-998-8119 to schedule an appointment or schedule at check-out after any pediatric otolaryngology or audiology appointment. This evaluation can also help monitor your child's communication development over time.

- Learn more about communication choices for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. We recommend the following resources:

Where can I learn more?

Book:

- *Choices in Deafness: A Parents' Guide to Communication Options*. Sue Schwartz, Ph.D. Third Edition. ©2007, Woodbine House.

Websites:

- Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss:
<http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/communication-choices/>
- BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing:
<http://www.ncbegin.com/communication-options-comm-options.html>
- U.S. Department of Education-“Technology And Communication Options for Children With Hearing Loss”:
https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/products/opening_doors/opening_doors.pdf

Support Resources

- If your family is interested in connecting with other parents of children with hearing loss, contact the Guide By Your Side™ Program at 517-335-8955 or for more information visit the Guide by Your Side™ website:
http://www.mihandsandvoices.org/guide_by_your_side.html

For more information please visit the U-M Pediatric Hearing Loss website:
<http://www.mottchildren.org/conditions-treatments/ped-ear-nose-throat/hearing-loss>

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Author: Jennifer Wilcox

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