

Who Else Can Help My Child Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing After a Diagnosis?

Any amount of hearing loss can affect a child's speech, language, social, emotional, and educational development. It's important to take advantage of intervention services to help your child be as successful and as on target as they can be.

By signing the "Permission for Referral" form, you are allowing the following agencies to contact you about their services. Signing this form does NOT automatically enroll you in their services. Many intervention services are free of charge.



1. [Infant-Toddler Program: \(birth-3 years old\)](#)

The North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program (ITP) provides services for the development of infants and toddlers with special needs, and their families. These services are provided through your local Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA). Evaluation and service coordination are free. A child and family may receive supports and services if the child is up to 3 years old and has a developmental delay or established condition including hearing loss.



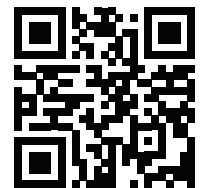
2. [Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Children with Hearing Impairments \(ELSSP-HI\) \(birth-3 years old\)](#)

Once you accept services through the CDSA, you should let your Service Coordinator know that you are interested in having a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing from ELSSP-HI work with you and your child. They will work on listening skills and language development. These services are different than speech therapy services. **If you decline CDSA services, ELSSP-HI cannot contact you to work with you and your child.



3. [BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: \(birth-21 years old\)](#)

BEGINNINGS is a non-profit organization that helps parents understand the needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. They support families as they make decisions about their child, and they assist parents during the early decision-making stages and throughout their educational career.



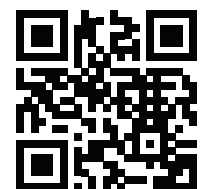
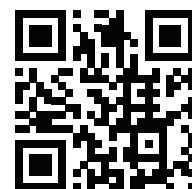
4. [Local Education Agency \(LEA in Public Schools\) \(3-21 years old\)](#)

This refers to your child's public school system. If your child is home-schooled or attends a private school, you may wish to decline this referral and/or ask your child's audiologist to assist in sending medical records to the appropriate school for your child. The LEA may be able to provide educational assistance for your child beginning at age 3.



5. [NC School for the Deaf \(3-22 years old\) \(Morganton\) and \(Wilson\)](#)

A public-school opportunity for deaf or hard of hearing students as a residential or day student at one of two NC campuses, one in Morganton, and one in Wilson. Designed to provide a language rich environment supported by sign language and other communication methods to satisfy each student's learning and social needs.



For more information on early intervention services for your child please contact the NCDHHS [Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program](#) (EHDI) at 919-707-5630 or toll-free at 1-866-431-7434. The EHDI Program oversees the newborn hearing screening and follow-up for infants and young children found to have hearing loss.

