



## Early Intervention

The Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) defines best practice goals including that “All children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth to three years of age and their families have early intervention providers who have the professional qualifications and core knowledge and skills to optimize the child’s development and child/family well-being.”

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education provides information regarding all communication opportunities to support parents in making informed decisions based on their child’s unique needs and the family’s priorities and values.

*Early Intervention initiatives:*

- Information and resources for families and professionals
- Early childhood assessments, including participating in the Early Childhood Assessment (ECA) for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Training and professional development for individual providers and First Steps agencies
- Playgroups and family events

*The following are services provided through the Center's Early Intervention (EI) program:*

- **The CDHHE Early Intervention Network**, a statewide referral network within Indiana's First Steps Early Intervention system, providing ongoing services to infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing. Services through First Steps include parent advising, developmental therapy-HI, and speech-language therapy.
- **Deaf Mentor Services** provide families with the experience of being connected with a Deaf adult by introduction, exposure and shared strategies involving American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community.

**Referrals:** Send referrals for Early Intervention services to the **CDHHE Network** at [CDHHEnetwork@isdh.in.gov](mailto:CDHHEnetwork@isdh.in.gov)

Contact Cindy Lawrence, Early Intervention Coordinator, at 317-232-0899 or [clawrence@isdh.in.gov](mailto:clawrence@isdh.in.gov) more information about the Early Intervention Program.