

WHY

Early Intervention

MATTERS



The first few years of life are critical for brain development. During infancy, the brain forms connections that support language, communication, learning, and relationships. For babies with hearing loss, early intervention helps ensure they have access to communication during this important time.

Research and professional guidelines emphasize starting support as early as possible. For example, early hearing detection programs recommend the “1-3-6 guideline”: hearing screening by one month of age, diagnosis by three months, and enrollment in early intervention services by six months. Early intervention services help prevent delays in language and social development, and support children in becoming strong communicators.

Early intervention programs often include support from audiologists, speech-language pathologists, auditory-verbal therapists, teachers of the deaf, early childhood educators, and family support professionals. These services help families learn strategies that encourage communication during everyday activities.

Organizations such as My Baby’s Hearing, the John Tracy Clinic, Auditory Verbal UK, VOICE for children who are deaf and hard of hearing emphasize that early intervention is not only about supporting the child but also about supporting the family in helping their child with hearing loss learn to listen and speak. Organizations such as Silent Voice, Hands and Voices, and Canadian Hearing Services support families with strategies to help their children learn to communicate using ASL. In both approaches professionals partner with parents to help them recognize their baby’s communication cues, build confidence, and create language-rich interactions throughout the day.

Starting early does not mean rushing your child. Instead, it means creating a strong foundation so your baby can grow, learn, and communicate in ways that work best for them.