

# EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION

A step-by-step road map  
for families and caregivers



## Hearing Evaluation

Audiologist:

Date of Identification:

### YOUR CHILD'S HEARING LEVELS:

Left Ear



- typical
- slight
- mild
- moderate
- severe
- profound

Right Ear



- typical
- slight
- mild
- moderate
- severe
- profound

Your audiologist will:

- Review the different choices in hearing technology and ways to communicate.
- Inform your child's primary care provider and the Minnesota Department of Health about your child's hearing levels.
- Connect your family to resources.

### The next step...

Your child needs to return to the audiologist/physician for further care.

Appointment Date:

Time:

Location:

### Respect for Identities

We respect the terms people use to identify themselves. People may self-identify as deaf, hard of hearing, a person with hearing loss, a person with a hearing difference, etc. You might see the phrase "deaf and hard of hearing (DHH)," used in an all-inclusive manner. You might also see the words "hearing loss" when talking about a medical diagnosis.

### Your child's hearing test shows hearing levels outside the typical range.

With early care and connections to intervention, your family will find support while your child is developing language and communication skills. Connect with these programs while you are making these early decisions for your child and for your family, ensuring your child's good health and development.

### In this brochure you will learn the...

- Resources and programs available to you
- Medical and Educational professionals you can involve in your child's care, and
- Steps to take in the next year to ensure your child's development

### Let's get started.



## The first step is to connect with programs to help your child

Programs are voluntary. Both local and statewide programs work together to ensure the needs of your child are met.

### Your Local Public Health (LPH) Agency

LPH agencies offer newborn and child follow-up services to help navigate and guide you through the process. MDH will link you with the agency in your area that provides the services you may need. When LPH calls you, they will be able to answer your questions about and connect you to:

- Financial Resources
- Insurance Resources
- Identifying Health Care Specialists
- Family-to-Family Networking
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Medical Condition Information
- Community Resources

### Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), 1-800-728-5420, [health.mn.gov/improveehdi](http://health.mn.gov/improveehdi)

MDH's EHDI Program will send you a package of written information that will outline resources available to you.



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### Minnesota Hands & Voices

1-651-265-2435 Voice Only;  
Email: [MNHV@lssmn.org](mailto:MNHV@lssmn.org);  
[www.mnhandsandvoices.org](http://www.mnhandsandvoices.org)

Minnesota Hands & Voices (MNH&V) is staffed by parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH). A Parent Guide By Your Side™ in your region will contact your family to provide information and support.

### Minnesota Department of Human Services

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
651-964-1514 (Videophone)  
1-800-657-3663 (Voice or relay)  
[mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing](http://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing)

The Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS) is responsible for creating and delivering a wide range of innovative programs and services to help children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.

### Early Childhood Special Education

1-866-693-GROW (4769)  
[www.helpmegrowmn.org](http://www.helpmegrowmn.org)

Connect with your local school district through Help Me Grow. Children who are DHH may be eligible to receive free early intervention through early childhood special education services in their local public school district. A provider from your local district program will contact you and work with you to make a plan. Children older than 5 can be connected through your elementary school.



## Next step is to coordinate with your child's Doctors



Your audiologist will inform your child's primary care provider of the test results.

### Primary Care Clinic/Contact:

In the next few weeks, discuss your child's hearing loss with your child's primary care provider. Your provider may connect you with specialists who work with young children in each of the following care areas:

### ENT Doctor

#### (Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist)

Provides specialized medical care for ears and can provide the medical clearance for hearing devices (if chosen).

**Doctor:**

**Location:**

**Phone:**

### Ophthalmologist (Eye Specialist)

Provides specialized care for eyes and vision, which is very important for a child who is deaf and hard of hearing.

**Doctor:**

**Location:**

**Phone:**

### Geneticist (Heredity and Gene Specialist)

A geneticist can advise if your child's hearing difference is related to other health issues.

**Doctor:**

**Location:**

**Phone:**

## The next steps after identification...

### Work on these steps by the 1ST MONTH

#### Child's Primary Doctor

Discuss your child's hearing evaluation. Get referrals for the doctors/specialists listed on reverse side.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### ENT Doctor

Schedule an exam that includes the medical clearance for hearing devices (if chosen).

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Audiologist

Return for monitoring and hearing device fitting (if chosen). Ask about options for loaner hearing devices, if desired.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Help Me Grow (HMG)

Through Help Me Grow, connect with your school district to talk about next steps for early intervention services and identify your child and your family's strengths and needs.

**Phone:**

#### Family Supports

Connect with other families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) (i.e. Minnesota Hands & Voices) and connect with adult mentors/role models who are DHH.

### Work on these steps by the 2ND MONTH

#### Child's Primary Doctor

Review your child's progress at the well child appointment (or sooner).

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Audiologist

Follow-up and test your child's hearing devices (if chosen). Discuss a plan in case your child's hearing devices are lost or stop working.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Local School District

With your local school district's early childhood special education staff, develop and review the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP).

**Start Date:**

[www.health.mn.gov/improveEhdi](http://www.health.mn.gov/improveEhdi)

### Work on these steps by the 6TH MONTH

#### Child's Primary Doctor

Review your child's progress at check-ups.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Ophthalmologist (Eye Specialist)

Have your child evaluated.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Audiologist

Continue check-ups and follow-up care. Evaluations will include play-based audiological testing as your child gets older.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

**Any additional notes:**

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3650.

### Work on these steps by the 12TH MONTH

#### Child's Primary Doctor

Review your child's progress at check-ups.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Geneticist

Have your child evaluated.

**Appointment Date & Time:**

#### Audiologist

Continue audiology care as recommended for evaluation and hearing aid testing (if applicable).

#### School IFSP or IEP Team

Review programs and services as described in your child's IFSP or IEP with the team.

#### Gather & Share Information

Continue to learn about and discuss communication considerations and choices in hearing technology for your child.

### TO LEARN MORE AT ANY TIME

#### Learn more about Communication Opportunities

[mnlowincidenceprojects.org/Projects/ehdi/ehdiCommunicationOpp.html](http://mnlowincidenceprojects.org/Projects/ehdi/ehdiCommunicationOpp.html)



#### Learn more about Deaf Mentor Family Services and American Sign Language

[lssmn.org/services/families/deaf-hard-of-hearing/mentor-services](http://lssmn.org/services/families/deaf-hard-of-hearing/mentor-services)



#### Learn more about Minnesota Hands & Voices Parent to Parent and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Guide programs

[lssmn.org/mnhandsandvoices](http://lssmn.org/mnhandsandvoices)

