



## Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Hearing Loss and Their Families

**"One of the most amazing things a child will learn in his or her lifetime is language: words and meanings and their use for communicating with others. The early years are a critical time for learning language, and getting help for a child as early as possible maximizes his or her window of opportunity to do so."** John H. Hager, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education

Over 100 babies born in Virginia in 2006 were reported to the Virginia Department of Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program to have hearing loss. (1) ***The first months in a baby's life are the most important for a child's overall language development.*** Early identification and intervention are critical for development of language, learning and social skills. (2)

***All children with hearing loss regardless of severity or current level of development are eligible for supports and services in Virginia's early intervention system.*** (3) The supports and services provided by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia are offered whether a child has a unilateral or bilateral loss and whether or not the child has hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other assistive devices.

For children with hearing loss, ***comprehensive evaluation and assessment*** will include determination of developmental levels in the following domains: cognitive, language, social-emotional, adaptive and physical, including gross and fine motor, and vision and hearing. (4) Cognition, language and communication can be delayed when a child cannot hear. (2,8) In addition, functional skills in the following areas in comparison to same age peers will be assessed: social-emotional skills, acquiring knowledge and skills, and taking action to meet needs. (4)

***Service coordination*** will include the following, as appropriate and as desired by the family:

- Explanation of and assurance that families understand their rights in Virginia's early intervention system (5)
- Facilitation of Individualized Family Service Plan meetings (6)
- Emotional support including linking to other families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and/or support groups (7)
- Informational resources including unbiased information about communication options (8)
- Coordination of supports and services, including collaboration with physicians, audiologists, school personnel, and other community resources. (9)
- Assistance with obtaining sensory devices including hearing aids and/or cochlear implants, and/or assistive listening technology including help with the process and identification of funding sources. (10)
- Assistance with transition options including the process for transitioning to Part B Early Childhood Education and/or community preschool programs (11)

***Effective intervention with qualified providers (12) will include:***

- Providing unbiased information about communication options (8)
- Providing information about hearing, amplification, and current hearing technology (13)
- Supporting the family and child in learning and using the family's chosen communication mode(s) (14)
- Teaching the family strategies to help their child develop cognitive, communication, and language and pre-literacy skills (14)
- Helping the family and child with the use of sensory devices (14)
- Providing anticipatory guidance in the areas of cognition, language, and communication development (14)

# Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Hearing Loss and Their Families

## Fact Sheet References

### 1. Basic Information: [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Statistics: <http://www.vahealth.org/hearing/data.htm>
- Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening: Meeting the Educational and Health Care Needs of Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss in America; Report and Recommendations of the 2004 National Consensus conference on Effective Educational and Health Care Interventions for Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss: [http://www.upstate.edu/pmr/beyond\\_newborn.pdf](http://www.upstate.edu/pmr/beyond_newborn.pdf) (page 7)
- Opening Doors: technology and Communication Options for Children with Hearing Loss: [http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/products/opening\\_doors/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/products/opening_doors/index.html)
- Center for Disease Control; Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/question.htm>
- Joint Commission on Infant Hearing Principles and Guidelines for Early Intervention Detection and Intervention Programs: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/4/898>
- American Academy of Pediatrics: National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs: Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening Activities: <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/screening/hearing.html>
- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, including Position Statements: <http://www.jcih.org>
- National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management (NCHAM): <http://www.infanthearing.org>  
Fact Sheet: <http://www.infanthearing.org/resources/fact.pdf>
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: <http://www.asha.org/NR/rdonlyres/3CDA7F66-0F0C-4BB2-8E57-85D7F7391401/0/HrngLossChldrn.pdf>
- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=HL\\_Information\\_and\\_Resources](http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=HL_Information_and_Resources)
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening/American Family Physician (May 2007) <http://www.aafp.org/afp/20070501/1349.html>
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities: <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs3txt.htm>
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing>

### 2. The Importance of Early Intervention [\[back to top\]](#)

- Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening: Meeting the Educational and Health Care Needs of Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss in America; Report and Recommendations of the 2004 National Consensus conference on Effective Educational and Health Care Interventions for Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss: [http://www.upstate.edu/pmr/beyond\\_newborn.pdf](http://www.upstate.edu/pmr/beyond_newborn.pdf) (especially page 16-30)
- Center for Disease Control; Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Fact Sheets:
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/factsheets/ehdi.pdf>
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/nationalgoals.htm>
- Center for Disease Control; National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Goals: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/goal3.htm>
- Hands and Voices: [http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/early\\_intervention/early\\_id\\_journey.html](http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/early_intervention/early_id_journey.html)
- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Early Intervention: [http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=Early\\_Intervention](http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=Early_Intervention)
- Center for Disease Control: National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Home Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/default.htm>
- Gallaudet Research Institute: Literacy and Deaf Students: <http://gri.gallaudet.edu/Literacy/#reading>
- Benefits Resulting from Earlier Identification and Intervention. National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management (NCHAM): <http://www.infanthearing.org/summary/benefits.html>

### 3. Eligibility for Part C [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: [State Definition of Development Delay: Definition of Eligibility for Services: http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideStateDefinition.pdf](#)
- Hands and Voices: Early Intervention: [http://www.handsandvoices.org/idea04reqs/index.htm](#)

### 4. Evaluation and Assessment [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Evaluation, Assessment and Nondiscriminatory Procedures: [http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideEvaluationAssessment.pdf](#)
- Auditory Developmental Scale: [http://www.auditoryverbaltraining.com/scale.htm](#)
- Virginia's System for Determination of Child Progress: [http://www.infantva.org/ovw-DeterminationChildProgress.htm](#)
- Zero to Three: [http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key\\_screen&AddInterest=1150](#)

### 5. Parent Rights [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Procedural Safeguards: [http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideProceduralSafeguards.pdf](#)
- Hands and Voices: [http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/fam\\_perspectives/wo\\_bias\\_V8-2.htm](#)

### 6. Individualized Family Service Plans [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Individualized Family Service Plan: [http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideIndividualizedFamilyServicePlans.pdf](#)

### 7. Family Support/Links to Other Families [\[back to top\]](#)

- Guide By Your Side: [http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/guide\\_side.html](#);  
[http://www.vahealth.org/hearing/gbys.htm](#)
- Hands and Voices: [http://www.handsandvoices.org/index.htm](#)
- Alexandra Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [http://www.agbell.org](#)

### 8. Informational resources including unbiased information about communication options [\[back to top\]](#)

- CDC: A Parent's Guide to Hearing Loss: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/CDROM/index.html](#)
- [National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management \(NCHAM\)](#)  
([http://www.infanthearing.org/index.html](#))
- [National Association of the Deaf: http://www.nad.org/site/pp.asp?c=foINKQMBF&b=91587](#)
- Hands and Voices:
  - [http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/fam\\_perspectives/wo\\_bias\\_V8-2.htm](#)
  - [http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/articles\\_index.html#ei](#)
- Virginia Department of Health: [http://www.vahealth.org/hearing/parents.htm](#)
- Virginia Resource Directory for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss: [http://www.vahealth.org/hearing/documents/2007/PDF/2007%2006-25%20Virginia%20Resource%20Directory%20-%20English%20FINAL.pdf](#)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/](#)
- My Baby's Hearing (Boys Town): [http://www.babyhearing.org/LanguageLearning/EarlyIntervention/index.asp](#)
- American Society for Deaf Children: [http://www.deafchildren.org](#)
- Alexandra Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=About\\_Spoken\\_Language](#)
- [Choices in Deafness: A Parents' Guide to Communication Options](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Sue Schwartz, ed.; Woodbine House, 2007.

### 9. Coordination of Supports and Services Across Agencies [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Individualized Family Service Plans (Service Coordination): [http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideIndividualizedFamilyServicePlans.pdf](#)

## 10. Obtaining and Funding Hearing Aids and Other Assistive Devices [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia's Hearing Aid Loan Bank: <http://www.vahealth.org/hearing/valoanerbank.htm>
- Code of Virginia requirements for assistive technology insurance coverage: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+38.2-3418.5>
- Starkey Hearing Foundation: <http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/>
- United Healthcare Children's Foundation: <http://www.uhccf.org/>
- Lions Club: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/>
- Quota Club: <http://www.quota.org/>

## 11. Transition [\[back to top\]](#)

- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Transition: <http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuideIndividualizedFamilyServicePlans.pdf>

## 12. Qualified Providers [\[back to top\]](#)

- Standards for Early Intervention Service Providers for Infants/Toddlers Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and their Families: <http://www.colorado.edu/slhs/mdnc/guidelines.pdf> (see appendix 5 for qualifications)
- Communication Disorders Quarterly Special Series on Knowledge and Skills for All Teachers of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: New Standards and Their Evidence Base. Volume 30, Number 1, November 2008. <http://cdq.sagepub.com/current.dtl>
- [Early Intervention Providers - National Association of the Deaf](http://www.nad.org/site/pp.asp?c=foINKQMBF&b=2639887) <http://www.nad.org/site/pp.asp?c=foINKQMBF&b=2639887>
- Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures: Personnel Standards: <http://www.infantva.org/documents/ovw-PGuidePersonnelStandards.pdf>
- Virginia Policy Page – Intervention for Children with Cochlear Implants: <http://www.infantva.org/documents/pr-PolicyCochlearImplants.pdf>

## 13. Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants, and Other Assistive Devices [\[back to top\]](#)

- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/hearingaid.asp>
- Hearing Aid Resource for Consumers: <http://www.earinfo.com/index.html>
- Better Hearing Institute: [BHI: Assistive Listening Devices: telecoil, ALD, American disability act, more](http://www.betterhearing.org/hearing_solutions/listeningDevices.cfm) ([http://www.betterhearing.org/hearing\\_solutions/listeningDevices.cfm](http://www.betterhearing.org/hearing_solutions/listeningDevices.cfm))
- Cochlear Americas Website: <http://www.cochlearamericas.com/>

## 14. Intervention [\[back to top\]](#)

- Joint Commission on Infant Hearing Principles and Guidelines for Early Intervention Detection and Intervention Programs: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/4/898>
- Choices in Deafness Revisited: <http://www.infantva.org/documents/wkg-NewbornHearingChoicesInDeafnessRevisited.pdf>
- Center for Disease Control; National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: Communicating with Your Baby: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/CDROM/start/communicate.html>
- Getting Started with Early Intervention (Boys Town National Research Hospital): <http://www.babyhearing.org/LanguageLearning/EarlyIntervention/interventionteam.asp>
- Virginia Policy Page – Intervention for Children with Cochlear Implants: <http://www.infantva.org/documents/pr-PolicyCochlearImplants.pdf>
- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Auditory Verbal Communication): <http://www.agbell.org>
- National Cued Speech Association: <http://www.cuedspeech.org/>
- Oral Deaf Education (Site includes free materials): <http://www.oraldeafed.org/>
- Auditory Oral Communication: <http://www.deafinx.com/DeafEd/OptionsGuide/Oralism.html>
- American Sign Language: <http://www.americansignlanguage.com/>
- American Sign Language Browser: <http://www.commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>

- Learning Sign Language and ASL: <http://handspeak.com/>
- Speech Reading in Context: A Guide for Practice in Everyday Settings: <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/Products/Sharing-Ideas/speech/SI-speech.pdf>
- Speech Reading: <http://speechreadinglaboratory.com>
- What Works Clearinghouse: [http://dww.ed.gov/priority\\_area/priority\\_landing.cfm?PA\\_ID=7](http://dww.ed.gov/priority_area/priority_landing.cfm?PA_ID=7)

### **Training and Education Opportunities for Providers**

- Deaf Education: <http://www.deafed.net/PageText.asp?hdnPageId=212>
- Links to Early Intervention Resources: <http://infantheating.org/videos/index.html>
- Cochlear Americas online training opportunities: <http://www.cochlearamericas.com/Support/291.asp>

**The following DVDs or Videotapes are available at each Infant & Toddler Connection Local Lead Agency:**

The Home Team: Early Intervention Illustrated

The Art and Science of Home Visits: Early Intervention Illustrated

**The following resource is available in several local lead agencies in each region:**

PREP Project Manuals (PREP is short for Providing Resources and Education for Professionals in Virginia: Working With Infants and Young Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Their Families)

**The Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (<http://www.vddhh.org/fyilib.htm>) has “Bins” containing the following resources. These are available for loan to local early intervention systems:**

#### **Videotapes/ CD's**

##### Discovering Cued Speech Instructional Videos

Includes 2 videotapes, Study Guide, and Workbook

This program teaches families and service providers how to use Cued Speech. Four instructors present 10 lessons with demos by parents, children, and professionals. The video and personal workbook should be used together and may be used also with face-to-face instruction.

##### Families With Deaf Children

Videotape designed for parents whose child has just been diagnosed with a significant hearing loss; other parents talk about their experiences.

##### Families With Hard of Hearing Children

Videotape designed for parents whose child has just been diagnosed with a more moderate hearing loss; other parents talk about their experiences.

##### SKI HI Total Communication I

Video Series, twenty 30-minute videos

Ten beginning and ten intermediate tapes with three lessons on each tape. Shows the common ASL sign and the manual English sign.

##### Cochlear Implants for Children in Parent-Infant Programs

CD presents in picture and animation information about cochlear implants. Includes what they are, selection and evaluation process, surgery, post surgery, hookup and follow up, emotional aspects, and discussion of different perspectives.

##### Baby See 'n Sign Volumes I and II

DVDs designed to teach babies 6 months and up. This is a teaching tool for the parents and the baby which includes a variety of real-life images that relate to a child's daily life, including animals, food, toys, and activities.

Volume I: Object-word association

Volume II: Object-word association continued, Beginning Abstract Concepts

## **Books**

Choices in Deafness: A Parents' Guide to Communication Options, Second Edition. Designed for parents as a guide to communication options including auditory-verbal approach, Bilingual-Bicultural Approach, Cued Speech, Oral Approach, and Total Communication

## **References and Handbooks**

### Sign Language for the Family, A Total Communication Picture Reference Book

Includes sign activity and reference booklet written for parents. Used as a quick reference that includes illustrations and corresponding pictures. This can also be used to practice tool in creating sentences.

### Developing Cognition in Young Children Who are Deaf, Second Edition

Handbook presents ideas for ways to promote early thinking skills, especially cognitive skills that promote early communication and language development. Approximately 100 pages. This program can be used in conjunction with SKI-HI curriculum.

### Sign with your Baby

A quick reference guide in ASL version that can be used to introduce basic signs to your baby. Some signs include actions, foods, toys, and common labels around the house and community. It is laminated so that it can be posted on the wall or fridge for easy reference. There is a space to record written notes on the progress of the child.

## **Curriculum**

### Learn To Talk Around The Clock

The Learn To Talk Around The Clock program is an oral, early intervention program designed for professionals to use with parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, birth to three years old. It is a great tool for teachers, speech-language pathologists, early childhood professionals, special educators, and educational audiologists. This colorful set includes everyday life activities to use in planning for families.

### SKI HI Curriculum

This manual (two huge yellow binders) is a comprehensive program for home-based, early intervention for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families. It includes theory, lesson plans and graphics for: hearing aid management, communication programs including all methodologies, supporting the family, etc.

### INSITE Curriculum

This two-volume (tan/brown colored binders) is a manual containing home-based programming for families of young children who are sensory impaired with additional special needs (multi-disabled sensory impaired).

Volume I: Communication and Hearing

Volume II: Vision, Cognition, Motor Impairment, and Developmental Resources

## **Consultation Resources**

### **Virginia Network of Consultants For Professionals Who Work with Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (VNOC)**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, and the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University



established the Virginia Network Of Consultants (VNOC) for Professionals Working with Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The purpose of VNOC is to provide consultant services and training to professionals who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing in school divisions and state operated programs in Virginia. It is designed to promote and enhance educational services for individual students or provide needed training for personnel. VNOC specialists were selected to represent all regions of the Commonwealth and have expertise in one or more areas as they relate to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. These include: instructional strategies, communication methodologies, amplification needs, assistive technology, meeting the needs of students with cochlear implants, and assessment.

There is funding from VDOE to support this initiative on a reimbursement basis. For more information about VNOC services, contact the VNOC Coordinator, Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU, at (804) 828-1342 or [www.vcu.edu/partnership](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership).

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### **Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)**

The Virginia Department of Education maintains a list of Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing in school systems throughout Virginia. Local System Managers can contact Debbie Pfeiffer, the Specialist for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Virginia Department of Education to request that she send information/requests for contracting or consulting to school based Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing in their area. Debbie can be contacted at [debbie.pfeiffer@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:debbie.pfeiffer@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 371-4059.

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