

## Hearing Loss

# Identification



Audiologist: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF DIAGNOSIS \_\_\_\_\_

After measuring how much your child can hear, we have determined the hearing loss in each ear to be the following:

### Left Ear

- mild \_\_\_\_\_
- moderate \_\_\_\_\_
- severe \_\_\_\_\_
- profound \_\_\_\_\_



### Right Ear

- 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 loss.
- > **Connect your family to resources.**

### The next step...

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

Appointment Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Your child has been identified as having a hearing loss.

While you may feel overwhelmed, with the right care, your child will develop good language and communication skills. Development can be delayed, however, without immediate action. So, use this brochure as your road map on the course you need to follow.

In this brochure you will learn the...

- > **resources and programs** available to you
- > **doctors and professionals** that you need to have involved in your child's care, and
- > **each step you need to take over the next year** to ensure your child's development

Two symbols are used to help guide you:



Indicates an **action you need to perform**



Indicates a **resource available to help** your child

The **first and most important step** you can take is to **start now!** Children change so rapidly in their first months and years you just cannot wait.

To begin, follow the steps and utilize the programs and support available. Each program will help you to make appropriate decisions for your child and for your family, ensuring your child's good health and development.

Since every minute matters, **let's get started...**

The **FIRST** step is to connect with

# Programs to help your child

Your child's primary care provider and audiologist are your resources to connect you to the programs available. Programs are voluntary and, as parents, you have the option to decline. Both local and statewide programs work together to ensure the needs of your child are met. Programs include the following:



### Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Minnesota Children & Youth with Special Health Needs  
1-800-728-5420  
www.health.state.mn.us/cyshn

Here's how MDH can help...

- A binder of information will be sent from MDH's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program that will tell you about resources available to you.



### Your Local Public Health (LPH) Agency

Local public health 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 Hands & Voices**  
1-866-DHOHKID Voice Toll-free  
Email: MNHV@lifetrack-mn.org  
www.mnhandsandvoices.org

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Staffed by parents with children that are deaf and hard of hearing.

- A parent guide in your region will contact your family to provide information and support.



**Early Childhood Special Education**  
1-866-693-GROW (4769)  
www.helpmegrowmn.org

Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Most children with permanent hearing loss are eligible to receive early intervention and educational support services. Children ages 0-5 years are referred through Help Me Grow (HMG); children who are older can be connected through your elementary school. Services are provided through your local public school district at no cost to you, regardless of income or immigration status.



### Minnesota Department of Human Services

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
651-431-5940  
1-800-456-7589 (Toll-free)  
mn.gov/dhs/deaf-hard-of-hearing

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Promote equal access and opportunities for Minnesotans with hearing loss through effective communication, collaboration and direct services.

NEXT step is to coordinate with your child's

# Doctors



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

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

In the next few weeks, you need to discuss your child's hearing loss with your child's primary doctor.

Your doctor may connect you with specialists who work with young children in each of the following care areas:



**ENT Doctor**  
(Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist)  
Specializes in ear problems and will provide the medical clearance for hearing aids (*if chosen*).

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Ophthalmologist**  
(Eye Specialist)  
Cares for children's eyesight, which is very important for a child with hearing loss.

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Geneticist**  
(Heredity and Gene Specialist)  
A geneticist can advise if your child's hearing loss is related to other health issues.


Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_


Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_


By the **1**st Month


HAVE THESE STEPS COMPLETED BY


 **Child's Primary Doctor**  
Discuss hearing loss with the doctor.  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Get doctor referrals for the doctors/specialists listed on reverse side.*

 **ENT Doctor**  
Have your child evaluated.  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Exam should include the medical clearance for hearing aids (if chosen).*

 **Audiologist**  
Return for hearing aid fitting (if chosen).  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Information about loaner hearing aids will be provided.*


 **Help Me Grow (HMG)**  
Through HMG, connect with your school district to determine eligibility for early intervention services and identify your child and your family's strengths and needs.  
Evaluation Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_


 **Mentor Groups**  
Connect with families of children with hearing loss (i.e. Minnesota Hands & Voices) and connect with adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.


 **Gather Information**  
Learn about communication opportunities.


By the **2**nd Month

HAVE THESE STEPS COMPLETED BY

 **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 hearing aids (if chosen).  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Discuss a plan in case your child's hearing aids are lost or not working.  
Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


 **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: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_


 **Mentor Groups**  
Continue to connect with other families of children with hearing loss and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.


By the **6**th Month


HAVE THESE STEPS COMPLETED BY

 **Child's Primary Doctor**  
Review your child's progress at check-ups.  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

 **Ophthalmologist**  
Have your child evaluated.  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_


 **Audiologist**  
Continue check-ups and follow-up care.  
Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Evaluation may include play-based audiological testing.*

 **IFSP or IEP Team**  
Continue programs and services as described in your child's IFSP or IEP.


 **Gather & Share Information**  
Continue to learn about and discuss communication considerations and choices in hearing technology for your child.


By the **12**th Month


HAVE THESE STEPS COMPLETED BY


 **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).

 **IFSP or IEP Team**  
Continue programs and services as described in your child's IFSP or IEP.

 **Gather & Share Information**  
Continue to learn about and discuss communication considerations and choices in hearing technology for your child.

 **Mentor Groups**  
Connect with other families of children with hearing loss (i.e. Minnesota Hands & Voices).

A step-by-step road map to help parents of

# Children with a Hearing Loss

