

Every family and child's journey is unique. Use this guide to build a team that supports your child's language, learning, and growth.

Build your CDHHE Network team with...

	Audiologist	Deaf Mentor	Family Navigator	Listening and Spoken Language Therapist
This team member can:	- Provide hearing tests at the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education in Indianapolis - Fit children with hearing aids - Offer support by phone	- Teach early visual communication strategies and American Sign Language (ASL) foundational skills including everyday vocabulary, laying the groundwork to achieving bilingualism - Educate the family on deaf culture and identity by building community connections and sharing their lived experience and expertise as a deaf or hard of hearing individual - Share how deaf and hard of hearing children acquire visual language and what milestones to expect.	- Provide information to help families find all available resources for deaf or hard of hearing children - Help the family understand their child's needs, so they can help their child learn - Help families prepare for services after First Steps	- Provide speech, language, and listening therapy to teach a deaf or hard of hearing child how to listen and speak - Assist the family in understanding the child's audiology results and hearing technology options - Formally assess the child's listening and spoken language skills to help the family understand the child's strengths and identify areas in which the child may need more support
The family/child can learn about:	- The child's hearing levels and cause, if known - Hearing devices that meet the child's needs - Strategies for using the devices	- American Sign Language (ASL) development and how to monitor for typical milestone achievement - Visual communication strategies that are unique to deaf and hard of hearing children - Tools to help families support their child's deaf and hard of hearing identity, bolster their child's self-esteem and sense of belonging in the deaf community - Techniques for using visual language in daily routines	- All early intervention services and resources - All ways to communicate - The child's unique development - Laws, rules, services and programs after First Steps	- How to listen and follow directions - How to communicate and express their wants, needs, and feelings verbally - Strategies to enhance the child's listening, language, and speech development - Ways to incorporate listening and spoken language into all aspects of the child's life

