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# Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Symposium

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# Purpose of Early Intervention

“To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings – in their homes, with their families, in child care, in preschool or school programs, and in the community.”

Early Childhood Outcome  
Center

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# What Does the Program Require?

- IDEA, Part C requires that early intervention services are available to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) PART C Washington State Program

- DSHS (Department of Social and Health Services) receives federal funding from IDEA, Part C to assure a statewide system of services.
- The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), within Aging and Disability Services Administration, Division of Developmental Disabilities, administers the IDEA, Part C program.

## IDEA, Part C – WA State (cont.)

- DSHS collaborates with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Dep't of Health (DOH), Dep't of Early Learning (DEL), and Dep't of Services for the Blind (DSB) to implement a statewide system of services.
- IDEA, Part C provides funding to enhance state services and activities as required by the law. Part C funding is payor of last resort and cannot be used to supplant state or local funds.

# Congressional Intent

- To enhance the development of infants & toddlers with disabilities and minimize their potential for developmental delay.
- To reduce the educational cost to our society by minimizing the need for special education and related services after infants & toddlers with disabilities reach school age.
- To maximize the potential for individuals with disabilities to live independently.

# Early Intervention Local Contracts:

- Each geographic service area has a contract for funding to implement early intervention services.
- Implementation varies in each service area and is based on local early intervention service plans and interagency agreements.

# Main Funding Sources for Early Intervention Services

- Medicaid/Private Insurance
- School District State Special Ed. Funding
- County Human Services, Child Development Services Funding
- ITEIP, Part C (enhancement, payor of last resort)

# Part C Early Intervention Services

- ▣ Audiology
- ▣ Specialized Instruction
- ▣ Speech Therapy
- ▣ Physical Therapy
- ▣ Occupational Therapy
- ▣ Other Part C services based on individual child/family needs

# Professionals who Work with Children with Hearing Loss Include:

- ▣ Audiologists
- ▣ Aural Rehabilitation Specialists
- ▣ Early Intervention Specialists
- ▣ Ear/Nose/Throat Doctors
- ▣ Speech Language Pathologists
- ▣ Others as needed (e.g., occupational therapists)

# Services for Children with Hearing Loss are Provided by:

- Birth to three programs
- Private providers (e.g., PIP@ HSDC, Listen and Talk, Family Conversations @CHMC, Speech and Hearing Clinic in Yakima)
- A few school districts have specialty programs (e.g., Tacoma S.D.)
- WA State Center for Childhood Deafness & Hearing Loss (CDHL) supports EI services in Vancouver & No. Central ESD - Wenatchee

## Services for Children with Hearing Loss May Include:

- ▣ Individual home sessions with families with a focus on: adult-child communication, hearing aid fitting and adjustment, early auditory development, early visual and spoken communication, information
- ▣ Toddler play groups and parent support groups
- ▣ Family sign language classes (in home and in group settings)

# What about children not served by these programs?

## ITEIP Statewide Resources

- ITEIP contracts with Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS) to support the local early intervention system in addressing needs of birth-to-three year olds with hearing loss (and vision impairment).
- WSDS provides statewide training and consultation to ITEIP system/providers, with activities varying with funding available.

## WSDS Ongoing B-3 Activities:

- Statewide training of early intervention personnel; conference presentations
- Lending library/resources for families
- On-site technical assistance (TA) and consultation to birth-to-three programs on individual needs of children/families
- TA regarding needs of children who are deaf/hard of hearing

## WSDS B-3 Special Projects (DHH):

With funding from DOH (2004 – 2009):

- Support for targeted counties to improve EHDDI systems
- Targeted county trainings on early intervention needs of DHH infants/toddlers
- Statewide training of 50+ early intervention providers on ***SKI-HI Curriculum***
- Follow-up coaching of SKI-HI graduates

## Goal of SKI-HI Training:

To increase local capacity to support families of infants/toddlers with hearing loss, through:

- Specialized training of early intervention providers, teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, & other personnel, paired with
- Ongoing coaching and support as SKI-HI graduates apply skills and knowledge

## WSDS B-3 **Special Projects** (cont.):

With funding from ITEIP and ODHH (2008):

- Training of staff of regional deaf/hard of hearing service centers on Part C and early intervention needs of infants/toddlers with hearing loss and their families
- County planning meetings for DHH regional service center staff and early intervention providers

## ITEIP/DOH Efforts

- ▣ ITEIP and DOH have an data sharing agreement in place to match children in the EHDDI data base to children in the ITEIP data base
- ▣ Working to determine how many children identified with hearing loss are referred to the early intervention system

## To Make Referrals Into Early Intervention System:

- Call the Family Health Hotline at **1-800-322-2588** for the name of the Lead Family Resources Coordinator in your area.
- Or, visit the ITEIP website at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/> and click on “Contacts, Staff and Providers” to find the name of the Lead Family Resources Coordinator in your area.

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# Supplemental Information

1. Eligibility Criteria for Infants and Toddlers with Hearing Loss
2. Information about Early Intervention
3. What is an IFSP?

# Eligibility

- A child is eligible if he or she demonstrates a delay of 1.5 standard deviation or 25% of chronological age delay in one or more developmental areas (Physical (*including vision, **hearing**, fine or gross motor*), Cognitive, Communication, Social or Emotional, and Adaptive); OR
- Has a diagnosed physical condition (**e.g., hearing loss**) or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.

## Definition of “Delay” - Hearing

*Hearing loss that adversely affects a child's development:*

- Unilateral sensorineural loss and/or permanent conductive loss of 45 dB or greater.
- Bilateral sensorineural loss and/or permanent conductive loss, which includes:

## Definition of “Delay” – Hearing (cont.)

- Hearing loss of 20 dB or greater, at better ear average of frequencies 500, 1,000, and 2,000 Hz.
- High frequency loss greater than 25 dB at two or more consecutive frequencies or average of three frequencies between 2,000 and 6,000 Hz, in the better ear.
- Low frequency hearing loss greater than 30 dB at 250 and 500 Hz, in the better ear.(or)

## Definition of “Delay” – Hearing (cont.)

- Thresholds greater than 25 dB on Auditory Brainstem Response threshold testing in the better ear.
- (or)
- A six-month history of fluctuating conductive hearing loss or chronic middle ear effusion/infection of three months, unresolved past initial evaluation.

# Early Intervention Services

- Early intervention services include Family Resources Coordination by a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC).
- Family Resources Coordinators (FRCs) assist families who have children, ages birth-to-three, with disabilities through:
  - Screening, evaluation and assessment;
  - Development of an IFSP;
  - Implementation of early intervention services; &
  - Transition out of early intervention at age three.

## Multi-Agency Coordination and Funding is Essential to Service Delivery

- No single agency is obligated to provide every service on the IFSP.
- IFSP services are coordinated among a variety of community agencies with Part C funding as the 'payor of last resort'.
- IFSP Team may access a number of resources, including Medicaid, private insurance, Tri-West, SCHIP, County Developmental Disabilities, school districts.

# The IFSP

- The individualized family service plan (IFSP) is the heart and global plan of Part C services.
- Focus is on the child's development within the context of the family's concerns, priorities, and resources.
- Includes outcomes for the child and family (to enhance the developmental needs of their child).

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For additional information:

## **Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program**

(360) 725-3500

[www.dshs.wa.gov/iteip](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/iteip)

## **Washington Sensory Disabilities Services**

(800) 572-7000

[www.wsdsonline.org](http://www.wsdsonline.org)