

# Language and Hearing Pathway

## The First Year After Identification

### NEWBORN OR FIRST IDENTIFICATION



Language development is crucial in the first few years and after identification you may have some questions. We are here to answer your questions and support you and your child. Your baby will have a hearing test with an audiologist called an ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response). This test shows how the brain responds to sound and how well your baby is hearing.

#### What happens first? In the first months...

- You will meet a team ready to support you and your family. This could include your audiologist, speech language pathologist, and an itinerant teacher for the Deaf and hard of hearing (DHH).
- Your audiologist will discuss hearing aid options and other devices.
- Your audiologist may recommend a referral to an Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor (ENT) to get more information on your child's hearing.
- Your team will talk about language development and language opportunities for your child.

**We are here to answer any questions about language and hearing - where to start, available resources, supports, etc. - Whatever is most important to you right now.**

### BY 3 MONTHS AFTER IDENTIFICATION



**You will have a second meeting with your team. You and your team will set up a plan to support your child's language and hearing that works best for your family. This plan could include:**

- Learning first steps in how to bond, connect, and communicate with your baby.
- Meeting with other families and children who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Seeing a speech language pathologist at a Hearing and Speech Nova Scotia clinic or your child's childcare setting.
- Connecting with an itinerant teacher for the Deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) in your home or child's childcare setting.
- Meeting with an ASL specialist to develop ASL skills for you, your child and other members at home.
- Talking about when, and how often, you will meet with your audiologist, itinerant teacher, and speech language pathologist.
- Attending appointments with your audiologist and appropriate APSEA team members, which may include fitting and adjusting hearing aids. If your child has a severe to profound hearing loss, this may include discussing options such as cochlear implants and American or Quebec sign language.
- Connecting with any further resources or services that may be a help.

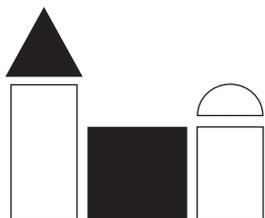
## 3-9 MONTHS



### We'll start our plan!

- You will have appointments with your itinerant teacher, ASL specialist and/or speech language pathologist. These appointments will help you with bonding/connecting with your Child and build their communication. Schedules are flexible and can change with your needs. We try to find a schedule that works best for your family.
- You will have ongoing appointments with your audiologist. These appointments may include fitting and adjusting hearing aids and hearing checkups.
- We will continue to check on your child's language and hearing skills as they grow to make sure they are developing. As needed, you and your team will talk about possible changes to your child's plan. This may include discussion of whether hearing aids or cochlear implants are an option for your child. We can revisit available language development strategies and opportunities at any time. If you and your team are considering a cochlear implant for your child, we will make a referral to the Cochlear Implant Program.
- We will learn more about the areas of development you want to focus on.
- You will have the chance to meet with other families and children who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

## 9-12 MONTHS



- You will have ongoing appointments with your Team.
- You will continue to learn new ways to support your child's language and hearing as they grow.

For more information, please visit us at:

<https://hearingandspeech.ca/>



<https://www.apsea.ca/>

