

INFANT HEARING PROGRAM



Helping your child learn language

Two out of 1,000 babies have permanent hearing loss at birth, and two more develop permanent hearing loss by the age of five. The Infant Hearing Program helps children who are D/deaf or hard of hearing learn to communicate to help prepare them for school.

The Infant Hearing Program provides:

- hearing screenings in hospital or community settings for all newborns
- assessments to identify newborns with permanent hearing loss
- monitoring of children at risk of developing hearing loss
- language development services

How do children develop language?

Language develops as your child grows and learns. Right from birth, families play an important role in providing consistent language models to their child.

Language can be learned through hearing and using a spoken language, or through vision and using a signed language.

What services are available?

Program professionals can support your child's language development and provide you with information to help you make decisions about services for your child.

(continued on reverse)

A team of professionals will work with you to:

- prescribe assistive listening technologies, such as hearing aids
- teach you early language development strategies to help your child
- show you how to encourage your child's language development through play
- help you access other programs and local community resources

Who will I be working with?

Your Infant Hearing Program team of professionals includes your Audiologist and may also include a:

- Family Support Worker
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Signed Language Consultant

This team will work with other community partners to coordinate services for you and your child.

Where can I learn more?

Your Infant Hearing Program Audiologist can share more information about language development services for your child. Your child's team of professionals are also available to provide more information and support.

For more information please visit:

ontario.ca/infanthearing