

# Infant Toddler Program and Idaho Sound Beginnings Collaboration

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Idaho Sound Beginnings (ISB) - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) database includes documentation on the hearing screening status of 99 percent of infants born each year in Idaho. The additional one percent of infants that are not screened are primarily out-of-hospital/home births. Idaho Sound Beginnings and the Infant Toddler Program (ITP) work together to ensure infants with hearing loss receive early detection, and are connected with early intervention services and resources needed to enhance their development.

## Goals

1. Ensure all newborns receive a hearing screen by one month of age.
2. Ensure all hearing losses are identified by three months of age.
3. Ensure all infants diagnosed with hearing loss enroll in early intervention by six months of age.

## Issues Regarding Newborn Screenings

- Out-of-hospital births (approximately 1,000 infants) are not usually screened. The program is unable to identify these infants and contact families to arrange for a newborn hearing screen.
- Out of the 99 percent of newborns screened, two to four percent do not pass the screening. Of those who did not pass the screening, only 75 percent receive audiological testing.

Some of these infants are later referred to ITP for other developmental issues, most often for speech and language delays. The referral from the family or physician may be sent when the child is older and the delays are noticeable, keeping them from receiving early intervention services during those crucial early months.

## Referrals

### ISB sends referrals to ITP intake when:

- A hearing screening results form lists a risk factor that may qualify the infant for ITP services (whether the newborn hearing screen was passed or the infant was referred for audiological testing).
- A diagnosis of a hearing loss is received from an audiology clinic.

ISB may also request assistance in locating a child who did not pass the hearing screening and cannot be reached, or to request a hearing screening for a home birth.

Results of any newborn hearing screenings conducted by regional ITP offices are documented and reported to ISB.

### ISB notifies the Idaho Educational Services of the Deaf and Blind (IESDB) when:

- An infant does not pass their newborn hearing screening.
- An infant is diagnosed with a hearing loss.

**ITP and IESDB notify ISB when:**

- *Any* infant is diagnosed with a hearing loss, regardless of the referring entity. This ensures all children with a hearing loss are connected with parent support, provided with relevant information, and Idaho Sound Beginnings records accurate information for quality assurance and reporting in the annual CDC data report.