Idaho Sound Beginnings

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program

“The need and right to communicate is the most fundamental of human rights. To deny it is to harm the human spirit; to foster communication is to reveal all the possibilities of life.”

L. Siegel

Because:

- 50% of babies do not have risk factors and 95% are born to ‘hearing’ parents.
- Early identification = Early interventions = IMPROVED OUTCOMES
- 1 out of every 333 babies is born with a hearing loss, and at least another 1 out of 333 will develop hearing loss before school.
- There is a critical window for language learning!
- Even mild or unilateral hearing losses can negatively impact speech and language development, and ultimately literacy.
  It’s not just about hearing, or the ears;
  It’s about the BRAIN and AUDITORY BRAIN TISSUE DEVELOPMENT.

All birth hospitals and seven midwifery clinics in Idaho screen babies’ hearing. Babies who refer or are identified as being ‘at-risk’ for congenital or late-onset hearing loss are not always connected with timely and appropriate follow-up and care. Research shows that babies with hearing loss who receive help before six months of age can often learn language at the same pace as hearing children. Babies do best when skills are mastered as close as possible to the time that a child is biologically intended to do so – early identification makes this ‘developmental’ paradigm possible for babies with hearing loss.

For more information on infant or early childhood hearing issues, parent education materials and support groups, educational and training materials and opportunities for staff, ‘Best Practices’ in pediatric hearing screening and testing, or to connect any baby-Birth to Three with available services, please contact us at (208) 334-0829.

To order any of the materials below, please include your mailing information and send to Idaho Sound Beginnings (All materials are free of charge.)

FACILITY: ____________________________ ATTENTION: ____________________________
MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________
CITY: ____________________________ ZIP CODE: ____________________________
TELEPHONE: (208) ____________________________ DATE: ____________________________

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<tr>
<th>Hearing Screening Brochure</th>
<th>Follow-Up Brochure</th>
<th>Door Hanger</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. Ordered (HW-0609)</td>
<td>No. Ordered (HW-0610)</td>
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<td>Midwifery Postcards for Parents</td>
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<td>Newborn Hearing Screening Referral Forms – English (HW-0616)</td>
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<td>Newborn Hearing Screening Referral Forms – Spanish (HW-0616S)</td>
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<td>Script for Birth and Parenting Classes</td>
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Fax, E-Mail or Mail to:

FAX: 208-332-7331       Mail: Idaho Sound Beginnings - EHDI

IdahoSoundBeginnings@dhw.idaho.gov

Idaho Infant Toddler Program, Department of Health and Welfare