

Think back to Part 1...

Please take a moment and add to the chat your “Aha” moment from the December 6th presentation.

- Maybe it wasn't something new, but something you had heard before and now makes sense in a new way.



Building the Family Toolbox: A Deaf/Hard of Hearing Perspective: Part 2

1/10/25

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This is Part 2 of a 3 part training series:

Link for Part 1 slides can be found here: https://www.eita-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Building-the-Family-Toolbox_-Part-1_AC.pdf

Part 3: February 7, 2025, 1:00 pm -3:00 pm, Virtual – webinar link to be provided

Today's Agenda

- Review from last session
- Building the Team
- Family Connections
- Emotional Impact of Hearing Loss
- Communication Plan
- Working with ELL Families
- Filling the Family Toolbox
- Plan for Next Steps- Session 3



How the Ear works



How the Ear Hears with a Cochlear Implant



Building the Team

- Family/Caregivers
- Audiologist
- Teacher of the Deaf
- Service Coordinator
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Developmental Specialist/PT/OT/Vision
- Family Connections for Language and Learning
 - Parent guide
 - Deaf mentor



“When my youngest son who is hard of hearing was born I felt an enormous range of emotions and had so many unanswered questions. I had so much to learn and I did not know any other parents who had a child with a hearing difference. I wanted information and ideas on how to give my child full access to communication and maximize his potential. I so wish this program was available for me and the parents who came before me!”

Families who learn that their child is deaf or hard of hearing often have many questions and are unsure of the next steps they need to take.

- Family Connections for Language and Learning is a program made up of a team of experienced parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and deaf/hard of hearing adults.
- Our services are provided at no cost to the family.

What is one of the most important things we do?

We help families...by letting them know they have our support and encouragement so they can ENJOY THEIR BABY!

- Do everything you they ever dreamed of doing with your baby...sing, dance, rock, read...and enjoy it all.
- We are available for a call/text/email anytime families are feeling lost, alone, frustrated or elated!

What do we do?

Welcome families following Newborn Hearing Screening or any other time a hearing difference is discovered in the infant-toddler years by providing opportunities for families to connect with:

- Trained Parent Mentors
- Trained DHH Mentors
- Members of the Deaf community
- Other families of children experiencing a similar journey
- Professionals with expertise in the field

What can we do?

Introduce families to:

- Early Intervention
- Language and communication opportunities
 - Getting Started
- The Pennsylvania Infant-Toddler Communication Plan
 - EITA-pa.org

How can we help?

Help families complete all of the recommended next steps including follow-up medical care and accessing available resources such as:

- Medical Assistance (MA)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)

What do we do next?

Help families develop a timeline to connect with:

- Experts
- Other organizations
- Resources
- Information
- Respect family choice in all decisions including:
- Language and communication
- The option to use or decline technology

What can we do together?

Let's brainstorm now!



Connect with us!

We have a very active Facebook Group in PA:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2617698531796382/>

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Family Connections for Language and Learning

Serving Families of Children who are
Deaf/ Hard of Hearing

Affiliate Program of Parent to Parent of PA

Families who learn that their child is deaf or hard of hearing often have many questions and are unsure of the next steps they need to take.



Family Connections for Language and Learning is a program made up of a team of experienced parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and deaf/ hard of hearing adults. We can help as you navigate the Early Intervention system and explore communication opportunities for your child.

Our services are provided at no cost to your family.

Family Connections for Language and Learning is supported by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services, has an office at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) and shares resources with Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA).



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING

<https://www.pattan.net/Publications/Guide-By-Your-Side-Rack-Card>

Emotional Impact after Hearing Loss Diagnosis

- Emotions change, and not always for the better
- Emotions can cycle.
- Level of impact is not always dictated by severity of hearing loss.
- Sometimes unrealistic expectations cause increased stress
- Resources:

Getting Started Guide

Find it here:

[Getting Started](#)

Communication Plan

- El Communication Plan is optional, but information must be included in IFSP
 - Required for school age students (5 and older)
- Is in Pelican system
- <https://www.pattan.net/forms/pennsylvania-early-intervention-communication-plan/>

Working with ELL Families

- Many research studies have shown that children with hearing loss are capable of learning multiple languages simultaneously.
- Families should be encouraged to speak to their children in their most proficient language.
- Dual language learning is possible if the environment is conducive to maintaining both languages.

Filling Your Family Toolbox

What do you have?

What do you need?

What resources would be helpful to your family/team?

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention National Conference 2025

- Link: <https://ehdiconference.org/>
- Pittsburgh, PA March 9-12, 2025
- Parent event Sunday night March 9th
- Volunteer for 6 hours for free registration
 - (contact Michelle Parfitt- mparfitt@depaulhearingandspeech.org)

Orientation to Deafness

Questions?

Next Steps