Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

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Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI) is a program at the Department of State Health Services. TEHDI strives to identify newborns and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing as early as possible. The goal of TEHDI is to support early detection and provide referrals to intervention services to prevent developmental delays.

Why Is Hearing Screening Important?

The health of a newborn is important, and this includes a child's hearing. Unidentified infants who are deaf or hard of hearing can develop delays in language and communication.

How Do I Access a Hearing Screening for my Child?

Most birthing facilities provide a hearing screening at the time of birth. Some facilities give parents a referral to get the screening after discharge.

What do the Results of my Child's Hearing Screening Mean?

Pass means you do not need to take any action at this time. It is important you continue to monitor your baby's hearing health. Let your health care provider know if you have a family history of deafness or hard of hearing, chronic ear infections, or if you have any concerns.

Did not pass/refer means your baby needs another hearing screening within two weeks.

What Support Services Are Available After the Screening?

The following programs offer support services to the children who did not pass a second hearing screen and to their families:

Early Childhood Intervention
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission's ECI program provides services that can be vital to a child's development, including communication and language. ECI helps children birth to 36 months reach their full potential.

ECI provides a service coordinator to help families find an audiologist and make an appointment for a diagnostic hearing evaluation. They can also provide resources for transportation to the appointment.

If a child qualifies, ECI offers family-centered services in the home or community settings.

Some of the services include:
Speech therapy | Occupational therapy | Case management

Many services are at no cost to families including:

- Evaluation
- Development of the Individualized Family Service Plan
- Interpretation or translation
- Case management
- Services from a teacher for the deaf/hard of hearing

Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School of the Deaf
SOC at TSD handles the state's outreach for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. They work with children ages birth to 22, their families and the professionals who serve them.

SOC at TSD offers support, training, information, short-term programs and family focused services, which include:

- Birth to 3 Outreach and Support
- Educational Resources
- Statewide Parent Liaisons
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mentor Program
- Texas Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program
- Family Signs, a free sign language instruction system
- Family Weekend Retreat
- Communication Skills Workshop

Contact

TEHDI
dshs.texas.gov/tehdi
tehdi@dshs.texas.gov
800-252-8023, ext. 7726

ECI Program
Search for local ECI services at citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us
877-787-8999

SOC at TSD
Texasdeafed.org/birthto3
birthto3@tsd.state.tx.us
512-462-5413

What is the Timeline for Checking my Child's Hearing?

1•3•6 Guidelines: A Road Map for Families

By 1 Month

- A baby has a newborn screening at birth.
- If the baby did not pass, a second screen is done after hospital discharge.

By 3 Months

- A baby who does not pass the initial screenings needs a diagnostic hearing evaluation with a pediatric audiologist.
- The family is referred to:
  - Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
  - Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School for the Deaf (SOC at TSD)

By 6 Months

- Baby and family begin services, including:
  - ECI Service Coordinator
  - Teacher for the deaf or hard of hearing
  - Pediatric audiologist/hearing technology evaluation

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