

## Selecting Early Language Services for Your Baby

BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP) works with community-based and provincial early language service providers so families can start services early. Parents choose the services and programs that best meet their baby's needs.

A BCEHP Service Coordinator will help you get started with services tailored to your baby and family.

### Provincial Services:

These agencies work specifically with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (birth to age five).



#### BC Family Hearing Resource Society (BCFHRS)

[www.bcfamilyhearing.com](http://www.bcfamilyhearing.com)  
[info@bcfamilyhearing.com](mailto:info@bcfamilyhearing.com)  
604-584-2827 or  
Toll-free: 1-877-584-2827



#### Children's Hearing & Speech Centre of BC (CHSC)

[www.childrenshearing.ca](http://www.childrenshearing.ca)  
[info@childrenshearing.ca](mailto:info@childrenshearing.ca)  
604-437-0255



#### Deaf Children's Society of BC (DCS)

[www.deafchildren.bc.ca](http://www.deafchildren.bc.ca)  
[office@deafchildren.bc.ca](mailto:office@deafchildren.bc.ca)  
604-525-6056

Each agency provides early language services however there is more than one approach shown to work for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We recommend that parents meet with agencies as soon as possible to learn more about their services.

Provincial agencies are located in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. However, they sometimes offer services in communities around the province. These services can complement community-based services to provide optimal benefit.

### Community-based Services:

Many BC communities have a Child Development Centre or a Public Health Unit that provides early language services. These agencies deliver other services in addition to early language support. It is common for families to have more than one service provider.

Your BCEHP Service Coordinator will provide you with information about early language services to support your baby.

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## Interviewing Early Language Service Providers

Consider asking some of these questions when you speak with potential service providers:

### Program Information

- What services do you offer?
- What makes your program unique?
- Do you specialize in a particular approach to learning language? Do families at your program use American Sign Language, spoken language or other options to communicate?
- Can we change to a different early language program at any time?

### Early Language Sessions

- Who would I work with? What experience do they have working with babies with hearing loss?
- When would sessions start? How often would we meet? Are there options for evening and weekend visits, daycare visits, or working with other caregivers when I return to work?
- Where would we meet? Would you come to my home? What if I do not live nearby? How often would you visit my community?
- How would I be involved in the sessions?
- How will I know these services are helping? What happens if my child is not making progress?
- My child has additional needs (feeding, mobility, vision). Does your program have the necessary expertise to work with my child? How would you work with the rest of our team?

### Additional questions

- How would you work with our audiologist?
- Our family does not speak English at home. Is an interpreter available? Do you have translated materials?
- Do you have services for when my child gets older?
- What services do you provide that are not funded by BC Early Hearing Program? Are there fees for these services?

#### **After Services Begin**

Once involved with services, parents and service providers routinely assess how well baby is progressing. At any time, families may select different services or another agency to suite their need.