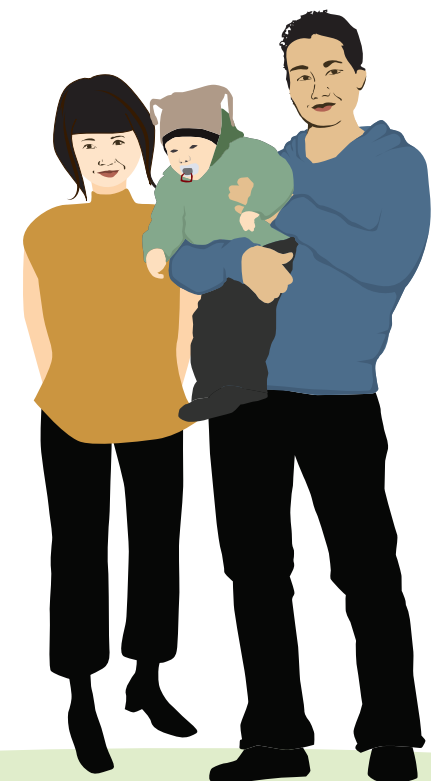


# Family Path



## Baby born

### First hearing screening

- Can be in either the hospital or community
- If results are not clear, baby is sent for second screening
- Babies who are known to be at risk for later childhood hearing loss have hearing checks at local public health hearing clinics

### Second screening

If hearing status can't be confirmed in one or both ears, baby is sent for further hearing assessment

### Diagnostic hearing assessment

More comprehensive tests are used to completely assess baby's hearing

## Before or by 3 months of age

### If hearing loss is confirmed - what happens now?

- BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP) contacts family and provides initial information about hearing loss and communication development
- Family receives copy of BCEHP parent information package
- BCEHP assists family through initial coordination of community and outreach services
- Parent guide from Guide By Your Side program contacts family
- Ongoing medical follow-up and audiology appointments which may include fitting of hearing aid(s)

## Between 3 and 6 months

### Family begins early intervention services

#### What happens first?

- Family meets early intervention specialists
- Initial planning for services is completed
- Ongoing appointments are booked

#### Ongoing:

- Audiology appointments (monitoring, ear molds, further testing, etc.)
- Appointments with early interventionists (support, information about hearing loss, how parents can help their baby learn to communicate, choices to consider)
- Parents, early interventionists and audiologists make observations about baby's development and share information

## Between 6 and 9 months

### First Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meeting

An IFSP is a plan that identifies the needs of baby and family. The family, audiologist and early intervention team meet to develop the plan, which includes:

- Which service providers will be involved (team members)
- How often services will happen (frequency)
- What areas of development will be focused on (e.g. listening, communication, language, etc.)
- What progress the family & team expect to see at the end of the six months for baby and family

## Beyond 9 months

- Parents continue to learn new ways to help their baby learn to communicate and develop in all areas
- Parents and team continue to make observations about baby's progress
- IFSP is reviewed every six months or sooner and changes are made to goals and methods as needed
- Appointments with audiologist for ear molds and to monitor progress, hearing and equipment
- Ongoing medical appointments as needed

## 21 month check-up

This is an important check-up. If baby is not making expected progress, family and team will consider possible next steps:

- Consider changing frequency of service
- Consider a trial period of a different communication approach
- Review of hearing device - is it working properly? How often is it used?
- Consider a change in hearing aids or a cochlear implant
- Referral to other services, such as Sunny Hill Hearing Loss Team for an assessment, Well-Being Program for family counselling, etc.

## At any time

### At any point in time the family and intervention team may consider:

- Referral to Sunny Hill Hearing Loss Team for more in-depth developmental assessments
- Referral to Well-Being Program for family support from professional counsellors (available to families throughout BC)
- Referral to BC Children's Hospital Cochlear Implant Services for children who might benefit from a cochlear implant

## BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority



For more information, contact the BCEHP Provincial office toll free at 1-866-612-2347

[www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing](http://www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing)