

## Module 1: Early Identification: Newborn Infant Hearing Screening and Evaluation; The Importance of Ensuring Early Access to Language

### Section: Family-Centered Early Intervention



### Activity 1.2: Enhancing Effective Parent-Child Bonding and Communication

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A. Discuss the following considerations central to family-centered intervention:

- Early parent-child bonding and communication are essential to preventing delays in language, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Keep in mind that immediately after a child is identified as deaf or hard of hearing, a family may not make a connection between hearing and their child's speech, language, cognitive, and social development.
- It is important to focus on the whole child, the whole family, and the use of a team model as central to family-centered intervention, not only "hearing" or "the ear."

B. Discuss strategies to connect language and communication to daily family routines. For example:

- Demonstrate different ways to use language (e.g., as the family prepares to go for a ride in the car, to visit family members, to go shopping). Provide the family with gestures, signs, and/or spoken language to inform their child of what will be taking place.
- Give the family multiple communication strategies to include during nursing/feeding times (e.g., making eye contact, ensuring the child can see the individual's face and lips).

- If the family is using listening technologies, address possible concerns that may arise, such as feedback from hearing aids:
    - If feedback is a persistent issue, encourage the family to talk to the child's audiologist.
    - If feedback is an issue only during nursing/feeding time, provide parents with encouragement and permission to remove the hearing aids during these times and to focus on visual communication and bonding.
  - Work with the family to identify specific times of the day to focus on communication-focused activities.
  - As the family members identify which strategies are effective for accessing language, encourage them to take time to observe how the child engages with his or her world and to use both auditory and visual strategies.
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*Developed with Stephanie Olson*