

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

Section: Family-Centered Early Intervention



Activity 1.4: Exploring Resources to Support Family-Centered Early Intervention

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A. Discuss the following:

- Possible opportunities for the family to meet with other families who have deaf or hard of hearing children in their community, nearby cities, or the state. See if there are specific programs for families to receive support from other families (e.g., Guide By Your Side™ Hands & Voices program).
- The benefits of becoming aware of supports available in the community. Guide the family in identifying possible individuals in the community who could provide support (e.g., deaf adults who could share their experiences and give the family insight into what it is like to be deaf). Discuss with the family members how they might apply what they learn to raising their child.
- Resources available for parents to begin learning about raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Let the families know that they do not have to become experts overnight, but it would be a great idea to start collecting resources and to consider what they like/don't like in the resources that are available.

- Resources available on social media (e.g., support groups on Facebook or Twitter, blogs, vlogs, or other social media avenues) through which families can connect to other families and learn about what happens in their family-centered intervention programs.

B. Supports for families speaking a language other than English:

- Connect families to agencies that could provide support in their native language. Some agencies may have staff who are fluent in other languages as well as resources in other languages to support development of typically developing young children that could possibly be included in the intervention process for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Identify possible supports from local agencies for foreign language interpreters to support the families during meetings.

C. Supports for families from other cultures:

- Connect with other local agencies that may be available to provide you and/or the family with support related to the family's culture. For example, seek to collaborate with an agency for Native Americans to guide understanding of cultural considerations that may arise during the intervention process. The agency may be able to provide emotional support to family members, allowing them to effectively participate in the intervention process.

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*Developed with Stacy Abrams*