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Early Intervention

Find out how to help your baby now.

Has your doctor told you that your baby has a hearing loss? If so, you may be very worried. This is natural. But there are things you can do. Find out how to get the special help she'll need right away. When you do this, it's called **early intervention**. It may include:

- Giving you and your family support
- Helping you decide which services are best for your family
- Learning to "talk" to your baby, with gestures, body language and signs
- Helping your baby understand people and be understood
- Encouraging her to play and get along with others
- Helping your baby use hearing aids
- Learning how to include your baby in family activities



The time to start is right away! Here's why:

- A baby's first three years are very important in learning language. After that, it becomes harder for her to learn words.
- If you get help right away, you can prevent delays in your baby's learning.
- Any amount of hearing loss can create problems for a child. It can lead to problems later in school. All children with hearing loss need special attention and help.

You will find in this section:

[How to Get Early Intervention Help](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/service.jsp)
(<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/service.jsp>)

Learn what services are out there.

[Your Child's Right to Early Education](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/rights.jsp)
(<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/rights.jsp>)

Find out what laws can help you.

Learn more about early intervention

- Find the [office in your state that can help you get early intervention help](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/rights.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/rights.jsp>) on the National Early Childhood TA Center's website.
- Check out [My Baby's Hearing](http://www.babyhearing.org/LanguageLearning/EarlyIntervention/howhelps.asp) (<http://www.babyhearing.org/LanguageLearning/EarlyIntervention/howhelps.asp>) to read more on early intervention.
- Read this [guide to early intervention](http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/parent/pa2txt.htm) (<http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/parent/pa2txt.htm>) on the The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities's website.

This page was last edited on February 17, 2004.

You can find this page online at:
<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/>