

# Connections

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Early Intervention

## Hearing Health Updates



### American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated its Assessment Guidance

In August 2023, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released its new guidance document on assessing hearing, including their terminology used in respect for the deaf and hard of hearing population. This policy statement was written by medical experts who received guidance from deaf and hard of hearing professionals and organizations like the National Association of the Deaf and the AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program. [CLICK HERE](#)

#### Assess for risk

All children should complete a risk assessment for potential changes in hearing levels. The child's family, along with their medical provider, should identify potential risk factors and complete a developmental screening of language and communication milestones.

See [table 1](#) for risk factors.

**Check the Center's IDEAL Parent Document for ASL and spoken English developmental milestones (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) and Spanish Language Milestones (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))**

#### Hearing Screenings

Children should receive a prompt, objective hearing screening if there is clinical or caregiver concern for new hearing changes. Parents and caregivers are often the first to realize their child is experiencing a change in hearing. Screening results should be reviewed with families and documented to assist with tracking and follow-up.

If a child does not pass their hearing screening in one or both ears, they should immediately be referred to an audiologist to complete further testing. Screening tests should not be repeated more than once before referral to audiology for consultation.

"When hearing status changes during the period of first language acquisition (birth to age 5 years), the focus should be on the child meeting language acquisition milestones at the appropriate age to optimize brain development and prevent language deprivation. Developmental surveillance with milestones that include ASL will support families who choose bilingual language acquisition with signed and spoken language."

(Bower, 2023)

### Considerations

- Culture and personal experiences will likely influence the degree of medical intervention that family members desire. Providers should develop a trusting relationship with their families and have respect for their families' experiences, expertise and cultural perspectives.
- Delayed identification of changes in hearing status during early childhood often result in delayed development of spoken language.

## Learn More

Provider tips: [Promoting Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](#)

Provider tips: [Hearing assessment algorithm within an office visit](#)

Find an audiologist near you through [EHDI PALS](#)

[Indiana Deaf Education and Assessment of Language \(IDEAL\)](#) includes guidance for parents on:

- [General language](#)
- [Supports for language acquisition](#)
- [Laws](#)
- [Language milestones in English, ASL, and Spanish](#)

### Sources

American Academy of Pediatrics updates guidance on assessing hearing in infants, children and adolescents. (n.d.). <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2023/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-guidance-on-assessing-hearing-in-infants-children-and-adolescents/>

Bower, C. M., Reilly, B. K., Richerson, J. E., & Hecht, J. L. (2023). Hearing Assessment in Infants, children, and Adolescents: Recommendations beyond Neonatal screening. *Pediatrics*, 152(3). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-063288>

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