

# BC Early Hearing Program

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

## Question Guide For Parents

As parents of a baby recently identified with hearing loss, you may have some decisions to make. There is no one "right" method for teaching children with hearing loss - it is important that you explore what will work best for your family. Every child is different, every family is different, and your needs may change as you travel along your journey.

Your decisions will be influenced by many factors unique to you and your family, such as your beliefs, values, religion, culture, way of life, and what you know about your own child.

Here are some **questions to consider**:

### When Getting Information

- Is the information relevant to you and your situation?
- Is the information based on real evidence (fact) or someone's interpretation (opinion)?
- Does this information cover a range of options?
- Is the information current?



### When Choosing Early Intervention Services

- Please describe your services for my family.
  - When would we start?
  - Where would we meet? Would you come to my home?
  - How often would we meet?
  - Would you help us meet other children and families when we are ready?
  - Would services change as my child gets older?
  - Are there any fees for any of your services?
- Our family doesn't speak English at home. Is an interpreter available? Do you have any translated materials?
- Should I consider your program even if I don't live close by?

- How will we know if these services are helping my child and family?
  - What happens if my child is not making the expected progress?
  - Can we change to a different early intervention agency at any time?
- Do you specialize in any particular communication approach? (e.g. spoken language, American Sign Language, spoken language with some signs added, cued speech ...)
- Where can I get more information about the different options?
- How will we as parents be involved in intervention for our child? What about our other children? What about other family and friends?



### Some Questions Parents Have Asked

"My baby is developing fine right now - I am not sure I really need these services. Do you think we can wait?"

"I work full-time during the day - can the therapist come in the evening or on the weekend?"

"Does the teacher have experience with children like mine?"

"We don't know which agency to choose - how do we decide?"

### Remember...

- There is no one right method for teaching children with hearing loss - every child is different, every family is different
- Given all the information, you will make the best decision for your family. It needs to *feel* right.
- No decision is final - as your child changes and develops it's OK to continue to explore different options. It's OK to make a different decision later.

For more information on this topic follow the link and look for this document:

**Helping You Choose: Making Informed Choices for You and Your Child**  
<http://www.aussiedeafkids.org.au/making-informed-choices.html>