



Part 1: MN Department of Health EHDl System and Interagency Resources for Clinical Audiologists; Information to Share with Families (November 2021)

Resources for Clinical Audiologists:

1. MN Department of Health (MDH) EHDl Program information, resources, and *Best Practice Guidelines* for healthcare professionals can be found on:
 - a. the [MDH Newborn Screening Program](#) website
 - b. the [Improve EHDl MN](#) website
 - c. the [Best Practice Guidelines](#) webpage of the Improve EHDl MN website
2. A [Report—Refer—Connect poster](#) is shared with clinical audiologists as a reminder of three important tasks for clinical audiologists to complete for children recently confirmed with hearing loss as part of the MN EHDl System. (1) *Report* children’s hearing test results to the MN Department of Health; (2) *Refer* children through Help Me Grow MN, or directly to the child’s resident school district’s Early Childhood Special Education Program for possible involvement in educational support services; and (3) *Connect* families with MN Hands & Voices parent-to-parent support.
 - a. [Newborn Hearing Screening Audiology Follow-up Report Form \(MDH Reporting Link\), 2022](#). Fax completed form and copy of visit summary to Fax 651-215-6285.
3. For detailed guidance on referring young children identified with hearing loss and their families to medical specialists and support services, please see the [Guidelines for Referral to Early Intervention, Medical Specialties and Connection to Parent-to-Parent and Family Support](#), Section 2 of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Guidelines for Audiologists, November 2018.

Information Resources to Share with Families:

- MN Department of Health’s [Children with Hearing Loss Roadmap](#) for parents includes links to Minnesota services and supports and an outline of recommended actions the family may take during the 12 months following confirmation of a young child’s hearing loss. The *Roadmap* is available in [English](#), [Hmong](#), [Somali](#), and [Spanish](#). It is provided to families in the MN Department of Health “What You Need to Know Binder”. Clinical Audiologists are encouraged to also share the *Roadmap* with families as part of discussions of next steps of care.
 - Clinical Audiologists can order *Roadmaps* to share with families through the MDH link [Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Free Resources Order Form](#)
- ***Understanding Your Child’s Hearing Loss: A Guide for Parents*** is often referred to in Minnesota as “the Beginnings book”, a resource authored by the North Carolina

organization [BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.](#) Under an MDH contract with, and approval from, the North Carolina BEGINNINGS organization, the 2019 edition of the Beginnings book was edited by a MN interagency EHDI group to include additional information for families specific to MN programs and resources. The MDH EHDI Program provides clinical audiologists with copies of the MN-edited version of the Beginnings book to share with all MN families of children with hearing loss (up to 18 years of age) at the time of clinical confirmation of the child's hearing loss.

- The MN-edited version of the Beginnings book is currently available printed in English only. The original N. Carolina Beginnings book (2019) is available printed in both English and Spanish.
- Clinical Audiologists can order copies of the MN-edited version of the Beginnings book (in English) and the original N.C. Beginnings book in Spanish to share with families through the MDH link [Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Free Resources Order Form.](#)
- Clinical audiologists are encouraged to highlight to families the [Parent Letter](#) from Nicole Brown, MN Department of Health, at the front of the MN-edited Beginnings book. This letter explains the connections between MDH and MN Hands & Voices and between MDH and Local Public Health. After the clinical audiologist reports the child's hearing loss to MDH, parents can expect a call from a MN Hands & Voices Parent Guide on behalf of MDH to check in with families and offer information and support. A public health nurse may also contact families and offer their assistance. The MDH EHDI Program letter for families is also included in the What You Need to Know binder.
- Clinical audiologists are encouraged to show families the page titled *Questions and Answers about the EHDI Program* page at the front of the MN-edited Beginnings book regarding child data information kept by the MN Department of Health and respect for child and family privacy.
- A [Letter for Families of Young Children with Hearing Differences](#), from MN Department of Education and MN Low Incidence Projects staff provides families and clinical audiologists with information about [Help Me Grow MN](#), referrals to Part C Infant and Toddler Intervention Services and Part B Preschool Special Education Services, and what the school district will do when they receive a referral for a child.
 - The *Letter for Families* is included in the front pages of the MN-edited Beginnings book and again in the Help Me Grow section of the "What You Need to Know" binder.
 - Clinical Audiologists may also choose to share a copy of the *Letter for Families* with parents as part of discussions about referring the child through Help Me Grow MN at the time of confirmation of the child's hearing loss.

- Clinical audiologists may also share with families the **Help Me Grow MN brochure, When Parents Know, Children Grow**, available in English, Hmong, Somali, Spanish, Karen.
 - This brochure and additional topic brochures and resources are available through Help Me Grow MN. Please see the [Help Me Grow MN, picture catalog of materials](#).
 - To obtain Help Me Grow MN brochures go to the [“Order Materials”](#) page on the Help Me Grow MN website. Use the county dropdown menu or use the map to click on a county to find the name and contact information for the Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC) person in that county who can provide clinical audiologists with Help Me Grow MN brochures and other printed materials at no cost.

- ***What You Need to Know; Resources for Families*** is a 3-ring binder of information resources that the MN Department of Health (MDH) EHDI Program mails to Minnesota parents of children with hearing loss (up to 13 years of age) after the clinical audiologist reports the child’s diagnostic results to MDH. A content list of the resources that are included in the current MDH binder can be found at this link: [“What You Need to Know” binder contents](#).
 - Clinical Audiologists may share the link to the binder content list with families to explore the resources before families receive the physical binder in the mail from MDH.
 - [Exploring Communication Opportunities for Children with Hearing Differences- An Overview](#) is an article included in the “What You Need to Know” binder, as well as posted on the [MN Low Incidence Projects—EHDI, Communication Opportunities webpage](#). The overview article describes the critical importance of full access to early language for the development of communication, cognitive, social-emotional, and early literacy skills in young children with hearing loss. It describes a journey that families of children with hearing loss may take to learn about different ways they may communicate with their child. Links are provided to additional articles about [Listening and Spoken Language](#), [American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#), [Cued Speech](#), and [Combined Communication Strategies](#) that are also posted on the Communication Opportunities webpage.

Additional MN Department of Health—EHDI Information Resources that clinical audiologists may choose to share with families can be found on the [Engage Families As Partners In The EHDI Process, Resources](#) webpage of the Improve EHDI MN website.

This resource is made possible with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding CFDA 84.027A, Special Education - Grants to States. Unless otherwise specified, this resource does not necessarily represent the policy of Metro ECSU, the federal Department of Education, the MN Department of Education, the MN Department of Health, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal or state government.