

Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP)

Ages 0-3 years

What is an IFSP?

The Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP, is a family's written plan for Infant-Toddler Program services that a baby with hearing loss will get. It shows how the family and a team of experts will work together to provide the services the child needs to grow and develop and that a family needs to help their child. The IFSP is family-centered, meaning that parents will be active team members and the key decision makers in the IFSP.

How do I get an ISFP for my deaf or hard of hearing baby?

Before an IFSP can be written, a baby must be found eligible for services. If you suspect your baby has a hearing loss, or if you already know your baby has a hearing loss because of a hearing screening, you can request a multidisciplinary assessment. That is a comprehensive evaluation that checks on all areas of your baby's development.

The evaluation team may get information about your baby's development from the following places:

- Audiological evaluations
- Your baby's medical history
- Doctor's reports
- Direct observation and feedback from family members (including you) and professionals who have worked with your baby
- Results from developmental tests

If the multidisciplinary assessment shows a hearing loss and/or other areas of need, your state must coordinate an IFSP meeting. The evaluations, IFSP meeting, and service coordination must be done at no charge to the family.

How does the referral process work?

Anyone can make a referral, including parents, medical care providers, neighbors, family members, foster parents, and day care providers. You can also call the local regional center to request an evaluation for the child.

Who writes the IFSP?

The IFSP team writes the document together. The family and service providers make up the team.

What goes into the IFSP?

- Your child's current development areas and needs. This may be referred to as the "Present Level of Performance."
- Family information. This includes the resources your family has for supporting your baby, as well as your priorities for your baby.
- Goals. The expected outcome of early intervention services must be described.
- Services. The IFSP must outline all services that your baby and your family will receive. This information should include how often they will be provided, how long each session will last, where they will be provided, and if services are not provided in your home, the IFSP must explain why not.
- Costs. The IFSP must identify who will pay for the services.
- Service coordination. The person overseeing the IFSP must be named.
- A transition plan. There must be a plan for moving your baby out of early intervention services and into special education by the time your child reaches age 3.

The Early Intervention / IFSP Process

