

# Your Baby's Hearing

Early Childhood Intervention services help families with children who may have hearing loss



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services  
Early Childhood Intervention

[hhs.texas.gov/eci](https://hhs.texas.gov/eci)



Your newborn baby has just completed a series of hearing screenings. Sometimes babies do not pass their hearing screenings. Not passing the screening doesn't mean your baby has a hearing loss. It means your baby needs a hearing test.

Early Childhood Intervention can help you during this process. If your child has hearing loss, ECI can provide services to help your child grow and learn from birth to 36 months. Starting services early can help prevent delays in your child's development. From your baby's screening, you should have referral information for a hearing specialist. Make sure to call the specialist right away.

Also, your baby's information is now in the Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention system. TEHDI automatically notifies ECI so someone can call you.

## Connecting with ECI

An ECI program in your area will call to talk about services and the next steps for your baby. ECI programs in Texas have various names and are part of bigger organizations like school districts, non-profits and community health centers. If you get a message from a program like that, even if you don't recognize the name, be sure to call them back because it could be ECI contacting you.

*"My daughter was referred for follow-up testing after she did not pass the newborn hearing screening in the hospital. My husband and I did not want to rush into any further testing because we just wanted to enjoy our baby girl. We could have chosen to wait, but we decided to take the next step and have her hearing tested when she was around 2 weeks old. Looking back, we are so glad that we did because the test confirmed she had a hearing loss. We were able to get connected to ECI and to other resources that she needed right away. I realize now that taking action helped us understand early on that things would be okay for us as a family and for our daughter."*

**Michaela Hamaker, Austin**

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## ECI Service Coordinators

To help you through the process, ECI will assign a service coordinator who will:

- Answer your questions.
- Help you locate your hearing specialist and make an appointment for the hearing test.
- Connect you to other resources.
- Help you find transportation resources for follow-up appointments, if needed.

Let the ECI program know if you have other concerns about your child's development or if your doctor has talked to you about other medical conditions. ECI might be able to provide additional services or help you find resources.

## After the Hearing Test

- ECI will explain their services and answer any of your questions.
- Your service coordinator will explain how the ECI process works.
- Before your child turns three, ECI will help you connect with your local school district and explore community resources that may benefit your child and family.

## Cost of Services

- ECI provides services to families of all income levels.
- Services provided at no cost:
  - ♦ Evaluation and assessment
  - ♦ Development of the child's individualized family service plan
  - ♦ Services from a certified teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing
  - ♦ Translation and interpreter services
  - ♦ Case management services
- Services with possible cost-sharing include support for other areas of development and additional therapy, such as speech, occupational or physical therapy.



## Resources for Families

To find your community ECI program, go to the ECI Program Search page at [citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us](https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us) or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use the relay option of your choice, or dial 7-1-1 to connect with Relay Texas.

**Early Childhood Intervention**  
[hhs.texas.gov/eci](https://hhs.texas.gov/eci)

**Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program**  
[dshs.texas.gov/tehdi](https://dshs.texas.gov/tehdi)  
tehdi@dshs.state.tx.us  
800-252-8023 ext. 7726

**Texas Hands & Voices**  
[txhv.org](https://txhv.org)

office@txhv.org  
936-463-8948

**Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School for the Deaf**  
[tsd.state.tx.us/apps/pages/soc](https://tsd.state.tx.us/apps/pages/soc)  
soc@tsd.state.tx.us  
512-462-5329