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Subject: Supporting Children with Hearing Loss

Importance: High

Hello Everyone!

WV Birth to Three has recently posted several resources for supporting children with hearing loss.

There are two posted Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletins. The TA Bulletins are policy.

Children for Audiological Evaluations - <http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/training.asp>

This TA Bulletin outlines the responsibility of RAUs to offer to coordinate an audiological evaluation for children referred with a communication delay. Any child with communication delay will also be offered an audiological evaluation prior to each annual IFSP meeting. In addition, all families of children with hearing loss will be informed about the availability of Hearing Specialists.

Supporting Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing - http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/tabulletins/tab_supporting_children_deaf_hard_hearing.pdf

This bulletin outlines that the families of all children with hearing loss will receive unbiased information about all the communication options for their child. This TA Bulletin also recognizes that communication, language and literacy are all connected.

It is important that the full IFSP team is aware of the child's status with language development. When an IFSP review occurs and the child is not making progress in language/communication, the IFSP team will help the family understand options for promoting language development.

Hearing Specialists are great resources for providing families with information about communication options and supporting children with hearing loss. These Hearing Specialists can also review with the family, information from the Family Guide for Families of Young Children Birth to Five with Hearing Loss.

The Family Guide for Families of Young Children Birth to Five with Hearing Loss is a new document, posted on WVBTT at http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/files/WV_BTT_Hearing_Loss_Guide_2020.pdf

This document is 88 pages with great resources for families – from basic information about hearing loss, developmental milestones for children using oral language and ASL and communication options.

We have also posted a new resource produced by Newborn Hearing Screening Program – **Monitoring Your Baby's Hearing Health** http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/files/Monitoring_Your_babys_Hearing_Health.pdf

There are also other numerous resources for professionals working with families of children with hearing loss. Please take a look and review <http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/resources.asp>

Thank you!

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