CLERC CENTER AT GALLAUDET

Young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children with Additional Disabilities: What Should Program Leaders Know?

For Programs Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants & Toddlers

Administrators ensure that programs provide coordinated, family-centered services that address the unique strengths and needs of deaf and hard of hearing children with additional disabilities through individualized planning, collaboration, and access to specialized support.

Assessment & Individualized Planning

- ◯ Ensure assessments address both deaf/hard of hearing status and additional disabilities.
- ◯ Support individualized IFSP outcomes that promote communication, language, development, and participation.
- ◯ Ensure assessment results guide coordinated planning across all service areas.

Communication Access & Language Supports

- ◯ Ensure every child has an individualized communication plan that supports language access.
- ◯ Support the use of visual, multimodal, tactile, and AAC strategies as appropriate.
- ◯ Provide families with resources and coaching to support communication and language development at home.

Collaboration & Specialized Supports

- ◯ Promote transdisciplinary collaboration among providers, specialists, and families.
- ◯ Establish procedures for accessing specialized expertise when additional supports are needed.
- ◯ Encourage coordinated planning and shared strategies across service providers.

Family Partnerships & Capacity Building

- ◯ Support families in understanding their child's unique strengths and needs.
- ◯ Provide access to Deaf and hard of hearing adults, peer networks, and community resources.
- ◯ Ensure families receive ongoing coaching, information, and support throughout their child's development.

Program Quality & Continuous Improvement

- ◯ Provide professional learning related to deafness and additional disabilities.
- ◯ Review program practices to ensure services are accessible, individualized, and family-centered.
- ◯ Use data and family feedback to strengthen services and improve child and family outcomes.