CLERC CENTER AT GALLAUDET

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

For Programs Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants & Toddlers

Providers support deaf and hard of hearing children with additional disabilities through individualized planning, accessible communication, family coaching, and collaborative services.

Assessment & Planning

- ◯ Consider how a child's deaf or hard of hearing identification and additional disabilities together influence development, communication, and learning.
- ◯ Use assessment results to develop goals that support language, communication, and participation.
- ◯ Adapt strategies to each child's strengths, needs, and developmental profile.

Communication & Language Supports

- ◯ Provide language-rich, accessible interactions throughout routines and activities.
- ◯ Use visual, multimodal, tactile, and AAC strategies, when appropriate.
- ◯ Coach families to use communication strategies during everyday routines.

Collaboration & Specialized Supports

- ◯ Collaborate with families, providers, and specialists to coordinate services.
- ◯ Share strategies and progress across the interdisciplinary team.
- ◯ Seek specialized consultation when additional expertise is needed.

Family Partnerships

- ◯ Recognize and build on family strengths, priorities, and goals.
- ◯ Support families as they navigate their child's deaf or hard of hearing identification and additional disabilities.
- ◯ Connect families with Deaf and hard of hearing adults, peer support, and community resources, when appropriate.

Reflection & Professional Growth

- ◯ Participate in professional learning related to deaf and hard of hearing children with additional disabilities.
- ◯ Reflect on how services support child and family outcomes.
- ◯ Seek feedback to strengthen service delivery.