CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET



Tips for Programs Serving Young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children with Additional Disabilities

Deaf and hard of hearing children with additional disabilities benefit from individualized, family-centered services that promote communication, language development, participation, and meaningful relationships. Strong programs recognize each child's unique strengths and support families through coordinated, accessible services.

1

Individualized Assessment & Planning

Strong programs:

- Consider how a child's deaf or hard of hearing identification and additional disabilities together influence general development and learning.
- Develop individualized goals that support communication, language, participation, and everyday routines.
- Use ongoing assessment to guide services and monitor progress.

2

Communication & Collaborative Supports

Strong programs:

- Provide language rich environments using visual, multimodal, tactile, and AAC strategies as seen fit to individual child.
- Promote collaboration among families, providers, and specialized professionals.
- Connect families with Deaf and hard of hearing adults and other community resources.

3

Family-Centered Services

Strong programs:

- Build on family strengths, priorities, and goals.
- Support families with coaching, resources, and information that reflect their child's unique needs.
- Promote communication, language development, and meaningful participation across home, community, and early learning environments.