



Family Learning Tipsheet

**For Programs Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Infants & Toddlers**

Families are a child's first and most important teachers.

Family learning helps families and caregivers build knowledge, confidence, communication skills, and connections that support their deaf and hard of hearing child's growth during the birth-to-three years.

1

Family Learning Opportunities May Include

- Language, communication, and accessibility
- ASL learning, book sharing, play, and daily routines
- Connections with Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults, mentors, and other families
- Learning about communication approaches and hearing technology
- Workshops, family events, and support opportunities

2

Family Learning and Language Access

Children learn language through:

- Meaningful interactions with caregivers and trusted adults
- Early access to communication, including ASL, spoken language, visual communication, gestures, and other accessible language opportunities
- Shared experiences that support language development, relationships, and learning
- Connections with Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities that support culture, identity, and belonging

3

Strong Family Learning Programs

Strong family learning programs:

- Offer flexible, accessible, and family-centered learning opportunities
- Provide culturally responsive resources, information, and support
- Connect families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults, mentors, and other caregivers
- Support caregiver well-being, questions, and ongoing learning
- Help families create language-rich experiences during everyday routines
- Recognize that every family learns at its own pace