

Language Use in Birth to Three Settings: Provider Checklist

For Programs Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants & Toddlers

Providers play an important role in supporting language development, language access, and communication for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

Language Development & Family Support

- ☐ Support language development during everyday routines, activities, and interactions.
- ☐ Explain language goals and progress in family-friendly ways.
- ☐ Help families recognize opportunities to build language throughout the day.

Language-Rich Learning Opportunities

- ☐ Connect activities, play, and daily routines to language and communication development.
- ☐ Model strategies that support language growth and engagement.
- ☐ Encourage families to use language-building strategies between visits.

Sign Language & Language Modeling

- ☐ Model effective communication and language strategies with children and families.
- ☐ Continue developing ASL, communication, and language facilitation skills.
- ☐ Connect families with Deaf and hard of hearing adults, mentors, and community resources when appropriate.

Multilingual & Culturally Responsive Practices

- ☐ Respect and support family languages, cultures, and communication preferences.
- ☐ Adapt strategies and resources to meet individual family needs.
- ☐ Collaborate with interpreters and language access supports when needed.

Reflection & Continuous Improvement

- ☐ Seek family feedback about language supports and services.
- ☐ Reflect on how services support language access and language development.
- ☐ Participate in ongoing learning related to language acquisition, bilingual development, and culturally responsive practices.