PROGRAM OPERATIONS

CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET

Best Practices for Birth to Three Programs Supporting Transition Planning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Families

A thoughtful exit plan from birth to three programs honors the family's journey, documents their child's progress, and sets them up for what comes next. Use these five tips to build a consistent, family-centered exit process for every family who completes the program.

1

Exit Survey

Collect 10–15 questions covering family satisfaction, communication access, provider quality, and confidence in supporting their child's language, offered in the family's preferred language.

2

Family Exit Report

Share a plain-language summary of the child's language growth, IFSP goals and progress, hearing technology history, and key family strengths, leading with what the child can do.

3

Transition Planning

Provide a checklist with the IEP meeting date, receiving school contacts, and a plain-language summary of IDEA Part B rights, and facilitate a warm handoff with family consent.

4

Deaf Community Connection

Before exit, connect families to Deaf community organizations, family ASL programs, Deaf camps, and peer networks, ensuring every family leaves with at least one community contact.

5

Program Data & Outcomes Tracking

Record enrollment and exit age, degree of hearing loss, communication approach, language growth, and whether family-identified outcomes were met using a consistent exit template across all families.

Implementation Note: This tip sheet is designed for both program staff and directors. Staff collect data closest to the family; directors are responsible for ensuring data enters program-level tracking systems. Use consistent data entry templates at each time point so information can be aggregated across families for program evaluation and outcome tracking over time.