PROGRAM OPERATIONS

CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET

IFSP Checklist for Providers Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants & Toddlers

BEFORE THE INITIAL IFSP MEETING

This checklist supports early intervention providers in delivering family-centered, legally compliant, and communication-accessible early intervention services for infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is intended to guide preparation, participation, follow-up, and DHH-specific considerations so the IFSP meaningfully reflects the child's development, the family's priorities, and real-life communication access.

Before the Initial IFSP Meeting

◯ Understand the legal and procedural framework

- Confirm eligibility, evaluation timelines, and IFSP completion within 45 days of referral when appropriate.
- Recognize the IFSP as a federal legal document under IDEA Part C that must be family-centered and strengths-based.

Provider reflection: Am I approaching this process as compliance only, or as relationship-centered early intervention?

◯ Gather and review comprehensive information

Ensure access to:

- Medical and audiological documentation
- Developmental evaluations and assessments
- Information about communication modalities, home language use, and developmental milestones

Provider reflection: Do I understand the child's functional communication across routines, not just test scores?

◯ Elicit family routines, priorities, and concerns

Use routine-based interviewing to learn:

- Daily schedules and caregiving contexts
- Activities that are meaningful or challenging
- The child's interests, attention, and regulation
- Family hopes, stressors, and desired supports

Provider Reflection

Have I centered family priorities rather than professional assumptions?