

Takeaways

- Parents have a role and responsibility in the development of their child's IFSP and should participate as equal members of the team.
- Building a trusting relationship with your child's IFSP team is important.
- Keep in mind that parents/professionals experience the IFSP process differently.

Contact Us

*Members of the WEII include representatives from the following: Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program; Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side (GBYS); Wyoming Department of Education, Outreach Services for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH); Wyoming Department of Health, Early Intervention and Education Program (EIEP); University of Wyoming, Communication Disorders Division; Child Development Services of Wyoming; and The Marion Downs Center. If you are interested in additional information, support, or training provided at no cost regarding this quick start guide, please contact the Wyoming EHDI Program at (307) 721-6212, info@wyomingehdi.org for an appropriate referral.



WYOMING EARLY
INTERVENTION INITIATIVE

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE
DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING(D/HH)

What Are All These Acronyms?

- **IFSP** – Individual Family Service Plan (Birth to 3 years of age)
- **IEP** – Individualized Education Plan (3 to high school graduation)
- **504 Plan** – A plan for accommodations only, not just specialized instruction
- **LRE** -Least Restrictive Environment
- **EI** – Early Intervention
- **FSC** – Family Service Coordinator
- **SLP** – Speech Language Pathologist
- **OT** – Occupational Therapist
- **PT** – Physical Therapist
- **TOD** – Teacher of the Deaf
- **WDE** Outreach Consultant – Wyoming Department of Education Outreach Consultant for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- **D/HH** – Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- **EHDI** Program – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
- **EIEP** - Early Intervention and Education Program
- **CDC**- Term for Child Development Center(s) in Wyoming
- **CDS** – Child Development Services (another term for CDC)
- **HV** – Hands & Voices – Parent organization to support families who have a child with hearing loss
- **GBYS** – Guide By Your Side - A program of Hands & Voices that connects trained parent guides to families who have a child recently diagnosed with hearing loss
- **R.E.A.D.** Plus Program (Reading Early Accelerates Development) - A program of Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices that supports and incorporates book sharing strategies (and sign language if chosen) for children who have hearing loss birth through kindergarten age



Tips to Help You Prepare for Your Infant's/Toddler's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meeting

Preparing for Your Child's IFSP Meeting

- While at the meeting, it is not unusual to feel overwhelmed. Be willing and prepared to listen, learn, ask questions, and actively participate at the meeting. Your input is necessary, needed and valuable.
- Come prepared with notes about your child's likes, strengths and weaknesses, routines, transition times. Think about and write down goals for your child; what do you wish for your child, right now and in the future? example goal: *Child will wear their hearing device during all waking hours approximately 10-12 hours per day.* Your goal ideas will be discussed at your child's IFSP meeting.
- Think about your day- what are your questions/frustrations? What areas are the hardest/easiest?
- Goals should be considered for your "whole" child: social emotional, communication, device use, physical abilities, etc.
- Talk with other parents about their IFSP services.
- Talk with your GBYS Guide about other individuals who could support you at your IFSP meeting. Consider inviting your family members, GBYS Guide, audiologist, or other professionals involved in your child's life to the IFSP meeting.
- Communicate with your Family Service Coordinator about the people you would like to invite to the IFSP meeting.
- Arrive early to the meeting so you don't feel rushed.

At Your Child's IFSP Meeting, Consider the following:

- Wear "Power Clothes."
- Any question is ok to ask at the IFSP meeting.
- Ask about opportunities to meet other families who have children with hearing loss.
- Make sure you understand all the goals and are comfortable with what is being put into your child's IFSP.
- It's ok not to understand what someone is saying in a meeting and to ask for clarification.
- It's ok to ask your team about their experience working with children who have hearing loss and to ask if they are comfortable/knowledgeable providing services for your child.
- Parent training is included in the IFSP. It's ok to ask what kind of training is available for families.
- If you need time to think about the written goals, ask for a copy of the IFSP and take it home to review, then sign and return to your child's Family Service Coordinator. **There is no requirement that you sign it at the meeting!**
- This is just a start! You are an important member of the team and need to make sure you understand and agree with the plan for your child!

After Your Child's IFSP

- If you don't agree with the IFSP as written, you can request an additional meeting.
- Share your concerns verbally and in writing via an email to your FSC and early interventionists.
- If everything is accepted and you do not communicate your concerns/objections/changes with the team, the IFSP will be followed as written.
- You can request progress reports on a regular basis,
- Communicate regularly with your child's IFSP team.
- Communicate home progress.
- Communicate any questions or concerns you have with your child's teacher/team members.
- Communicate positive feedback (say "thank you") when possible.

