SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

CT Birth to Three System
Hearing Specialty Programs

What is Birth to Three (Birth23)?

• Support services by professionals trained to work with families of children ages birth to three who have developmental delays or disabilities
• Family-centered services which occur in the child’s natural everyday environments
• Guidance focused on meeting the developmental and health-related needs of infants and toddlers

Why is Birth23 Important for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing?

• The most important time for a child to be exposed to and learn language is in the first three years of life. Children begin learning speech and language from birth.
• Research states that children who are deaf or hard of hearing who get early intervention develop better language skills than those who don’t.

What do the CT Birth23 Hearing Specialty Programs Offer for YOUR family?

• Help your baby learn to communicate. The team will provide services to your baby and your family to help develop language and social skills, through listening and spoken language and/or through sign language.

• Individualized services from trained professionals. The specialized team is trained to work with infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing to provide services focused on your child’s and family’s needs.

• Access to Technology. Your baby will be able to obtain hearing aids and/or additional technology to improve success for hearing and language development.

• Help with Transition to School. The team will support your family as your child transitions from Birth23 to a school district at age 3. This usually includes facilitating communication and meetings with the school district.

Is MY child eligible?
YES! Children with a hearing loss of 25 dB or greater in one or both ears can receive services.

HOW DO I START?

Your audiologist can contact B23 on your behalf or you can call the Child Development Infoline at 800-505-7000 or go online to cdi.211ct.org to start.

You will be given the opportunity to choose a Hearing Specialty Birth23 program & will receive information on family support groups. (See the back for more information).

Payment for Services

Some families make a monthly payment to receive services. The fee is a sliding scale based on income and the size of your family. You should ask about the fee when you talk with your Hearing Specialty program and ask about services at NO cost.

Connecticut Birth to Three System
Phone 800.505.7000 (or 2-1-1)
www.birth23.org
cdi.211ct.org
CT Birth23: Hearing Specialty Programs

American School for the Deaf (ASD)
The mission is to educate and empower children to communicate with confidence. We utilize a family centered approach in identifying and utilizing a best communication match (spoken language and/or American Sign Language (ASL) to instill early, unrestricted access to language. Our providers work with families to establish early communication and strengthen bonding. Providing early access to language builds a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Our families have access to ASD’s audiological center where we dispense hearing aids and FM/DM systems. Our services include: Home visits, Parent Education & Support, Family Fun Days, American Sign Language (ASL) instruction and speech and language therapy.
Phone - 860.570.2300 (Voice) / 860.899.1217 (Videophone) www.asd-1817.org

CREC Soundbridge
Soundbridge Birth to Three is a unique comprehensive specialty program that supports families of infants and toddlers who are learning to listen and talk. Our program provides highly skilled and caring professionals with expertise in pediatric audiology and in listening and spoken language development for very young children. We provide infants and toddlers with the best possible access to spoken language through full-time use of state-of-the-art hearing technology, and we empower families to be the best possible source of language learning for their child. We help you give your child the foundation needed to be educated in regular classes, develop meaningful social relationships, and go on to college or work, leading an active and productive adult life.
Phone - 860.529.4260 www.crec.org/soundbridge

New England Center for Hearing Rehabilitation – NECHEAR
The goal of NECHEAR’s specialized Birth to Three program is to prepare children with hearing loss to acquire the spoken language skills necessary to be educated with their peers by the time they enter school. Our audiologists, speech language pathologists, and listening and spoken language specialist have the expertise to help families teach their children how to listen and talk. Our clinic provides highly individualized services for your family.
Phone - 860.455.1404 www.nechear.com

RESOURCES
1. Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing www.agbell.org
3. National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management www.infanthearing.org
4. National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders/Boys Town National Research Hospital www.babyhearing.org

Local Support Groups
1. CT AG Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing https://www.agbell.org/connect/chapters/
2. CT Family Support Network www.ctfsn.org
3. CT Hands & Voices www.cthandsandvoices.org
4. CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) www.cpacinc.org
5. PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT www.pathct.org

Each program encourages you to call directly to get more information.