

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

## CT Birth to Three System Hearing Specialty Supports



### 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 Supports Offer for YOUR family?

- **Help your child learn to communicate.** The team will provide support to your family so you can help your child develop language and social skills through listening and spoken language and/or through sign language.
- **Individualized supports from trained professionals.** The specialized team is trained to work with families of 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 child 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 communication and meetings with the school district.

### Is my child eligible?

Children with a hearing loss of 26 dB (called a mild loss) or greater in one or both ears may be eligible to 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](http://cdi.211ct.org) to start. Your service coordinator will help you access **Hearing Specialty Birth23** supports & 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 Birth23 program and ask about services at NO cost.

**Connecticut Birth to Three System**  
Phone 800.505.7000  
(or 2-1-1)  
[www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org)  
[cdi.211ct.org](http://cdi.211ct.org)

# CT Birth23: Hearing Specialty Supports



## American School for the Deaf (ASD)

The mission is to educate and empower children with bilateral hearing loss to communicate with confidence. We utilize a family centered approach in identifying and utilizing the best communication approach in American Sign Language (ASL) and/or spoken language to instill early, unrestricted access to language. Our providers work with families to establish early communication and strengthen bonding between the caregiver and the child. Providing early access to language builds a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Our families have access to ASD's pediatric audiological center where we dispense hearing aids and FM/DM systems. Our services include: Weekly Playgroup, Parent Education & Support, Family Fun Days, Deaf Mentors, American Sign Language (ASL) instruction and spoken language support. Our goal is provide families with the tools and resources to help their child have a strong language foundation which is essential for long term success. **Phone - 860.570.2300 (Voice) / 860.899.1217 (Videophone) [www.asd-1817.org](http://www.asd-1817.org)**

## CREC Soundbridge

Soundbridge Birth to Three 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](http://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](http://www.nechear.com)**



## RESOURCES

- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)
- American Society for Deaf Children [www.deafchildren.org](http://www.deafchildren.org)
- Connecticut Department of Public Health Early Hearing Detection & Intervention [www.ct.gov/dph/ehdi](http://www.ct.gov/dph/ehdi)
- National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management [www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders/Boys Town National Research Hospital [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)

## Local Support Groups

- CT AG Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing <https://www.agbell.org/connect/chapters/>
- CT Family Support Network [www.ctfsn.org](http://www.ctfsn.org)
- CT Hands & Voices [www.cthandsandvoices.org](http://www.cthandsandvoices.org)
- CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)
- PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT [www.pathct.org](http://www.pathct.org)
- New England Consortium for Deaf Blind Technical Assistance & Training [www.nec4db.org](http://www.nec4db.org)



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