

Connecticut Birth to Three System

HEARING SPECIALTY SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING



What is Birth to Three?

- A system authorized by Part C of the IDEA that helps families support the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities. Each state has their own “Part C” early intervention system.
- Family-centered supports from experienced professionals provided in each family’s natural learning environments.
- Birth to Three uses primary providers and coaching to help families meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers.

Why is Birth to Three 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.**
- **Children who are deaf or hard of hearing who get early intervention develop better language skills.**

What can the Connecticut Birth to Three Hearing Specialty Supports offer for YOUR family?

- **Help your child learn to communicate in the language and communication mode chosen by your family.** 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 and family needs.
- **Help with Transition to School.** The team will support your family as your child transitions from Birth to Three to your local school district at age 3. This usually includes communication and meetings with the school district.

Is MY Child Eligible?

Children with a hearing loss in one or both ears are eligible.

How Do I Start?

Your audiologist can contact Birth to Three on your behalf or you can call **Child Development Infoline at 1-800-505-7000** or go online to **cdi.211ct.org** to start.

Your Birth to Three service coordinator will help you access **Hearing Specialty supports** (See the back or page 2 for more information).

Payment for Services

Birth to Three programs bill Medicaid and commercial insurance for services and assistive technology. Uncovered costs from your insurance are covered by State and Federal funds. For families not insured by Medicaid with annual incomes over \$45,000 there is a monthly family cost participation fee based on a sliding scale that considers your income and family size. Some services are available at NO cost.

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Phone 800.505.7000
(or 211)

www.birth23.org
cdi.211ct.org



American School for the Deaf (ASD)

ASD is a comprehensive Early Intervention Service (EIS) program that can accept referrals directly from Child Development Infoline. ASD provides families with accurate, unbiased information regarding hearing loss, cochlear implants & hearing aids, and all communication approaches available from listening/spoken language to American Sign Language. Our families have access to ASD's pediatric audiologic center where we dispense hearing aids and FM/DM systems, our Family Education Center and our Language Lab. We encourage families to participate in our Deaf Mentor Program, ASL classes and our weekly playgroups. Our goal is to 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

CREC Soundbridge

CREC Soundbridge is a comprehensive Early Intervention Service (EIS) program that can accept referrals directly from Child Development Infoline. CREC Soundbridge Birth to Three supports families of infants and toddlers who are learning to listen and talk. Our program provides highly skilled and caring audiologists and teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing with expertise in pediatric audiology and in listening and spoken language development. We provide infants and toddlers with the best possible access to spoken language through full-time use of state-of-the-art hearing technology. 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

NECHEAR is a deaf/hard of hearing support provider and can only accept referrals through a comprehensive early intervention service program. The goal of NECHEAR 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 specialists have the expertise to help families teach their children how to listen and talk. We collaborate with your comprehensive Birth to Three program to provide highly individualized services for your family.

Phone - 860.455.1404 www.nechear.com



RESOURCES

- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing www.agbell.org
- American Society for Deaf Children www.deafchildren.org
- Connecticut Department of Public Health Early Hearing Detection & Intervention CT EHD
- National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management www.infanthearing.org
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders/Boys Town National Research Hospital www.babyhearing.org

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



CT Birth to Three System
Phone 800.505.7000
(or 2-1-1)
www.birth23.org
cdi.211ct.org

Local Support Groups

- CT AG Bell Association for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing <https://www.agbell.org/Connecticut-chapter>
- CT Family Support Network www.ctfsn.org
- CT Hands & Voices www.cthandsandvoices.org
- CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) www.cpacinc.org
- PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT www.pathct.org
- New England Consortium on Deafblindness www.nec4db.org