

CARES Beginnings

Topic Priorities



Families who have a baby or toddler who is deaf or hard of hearing are presented with a wave of new learning and expectations. You are introduced to new terminology, new professionals, and are presented with choices that require decision-making on topics that may be unfamiliar. This is a lot for you to take on, all while doing the most important work of caring, bonding, and connecting with your little one.

WSB CARES team has created a guide of topics for families to participate in alongside their Birth to 3 providers that will allow for the sharing of unbiased information, space for reflection, and resources for further learning. We will spend several visits navigating these topics together.

Parents/Caregiver, please review the topics below and number them in order of your interest/priority (1-8) so that we can address your top questions first.

Your Team Understanding your team, how everyone works together and your journey getting to this point (Audiologist, Ear, Nose & Throat Doctor, Primary Care Physician, Birth to 3 Program, Wisconsin Sound Beginnings)
Parent-Child Early Relationships Matter Let's observe how YOUR baby/toddler is communicating (without words/signs) and learn strategies for responding and building relationship and communication.
It's All About the Brain Early brain development and connection to communication, language, and relationships
Your Child's hearing status - What does it all mean? Understanding the terms and descriptions of hearing levels, hearing tests, the hearing pathway, and unpacking how it applies to your child.
Technology Opportunities Understanding amplification and assistive technology, the benefits and limitations, and strategies for optimizing their usefulness in daily routines.
Communication Opportunities Languages, signing, listening, talking, Culture & Community, what it takes
GREAT (Grass Roots Engagement Action Team) Young Adults Meet young adults who are D/deaf or hard of hearing (who use various languages and modes of communication) and learn about how they grew up and what they're doing now
GREAT (Grass Roots Engagement Action Team) Parents Meet other parents who have children who are D/deaf or hard of hearing and hear about their experiences and journeys

