

# **THE DHH PLUS CHILD AND THE IFSP.**

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**SARA KENNEDY AND  
BROOKE MONTGOMERY,  
HANDS & VOICES  
EHDI 2025**

# **“WHAT IS THE GOAL FOR YOUR CHILD?”**

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**On the list of priorities, Ollie's deafness was at the bottom. Many nights we prayed he'd stay alive. We didn't come out of that space until he was 6 months old. And then... Ollie's hearing/language needs became the priority.**

**-Amanda Hvass**

**Oregon Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side  
Coordinator**

**IFSP TEMPLATE:**



# WHAT IS AN IFSP?

“An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written document that outlines early intervention services for children with disabilities or developmental delays. The IFSP is created for families with children from birth to age 3.”

**MAKING A  
PLAN FOR  
YOUR CHILD:**



**Legal Agreement**



**Family-Centered**



**Review Every 6 Months**



**Goals & Services**





# WHY DOES THE PLUS MATTER?

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**It was my daughter Anna's first Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting, and I didn't know what to expect: I had an infant with a disease I'd never heard of; she was deaf and I'd never known a deaf person; we were having people over to plan for her future and I knew her future was entirely clouded by questions.**

**-Megan Nix**

Parent Advocate & Author, CMV Foundation



# HOW DO I GET WHAT MY CHILD NEEDS?

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**My kiddo lost time because we didn't know he couldn't hear (he did pass his newborn screen) but he lost even more when no one referred us to the qualified team of people to lead us through the process.**

**-Kristen Stratton, J.M.**

California Hands & Voices Board Member  
Director of Deaf Plus Education & Support Services



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**The Right People on the Team**

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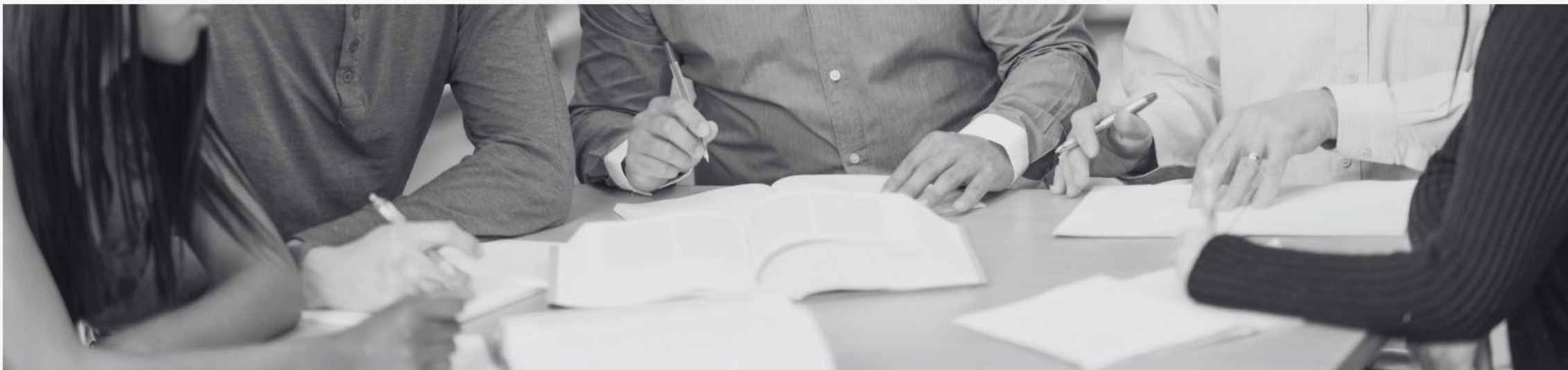
**Comprehensive Assessment**

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**Personalized Plan**

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**Prioritizing Language**



## **WHAT ELSE CAN SUPPORT OUR NEEDS IN THE IFSP?**

**A Parent's Guide to  
Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing Early  
Intervention  
Recommendations:**





# ARE THERE OTHER FAMILIES LIKE OURS?

Guide By Your Side:



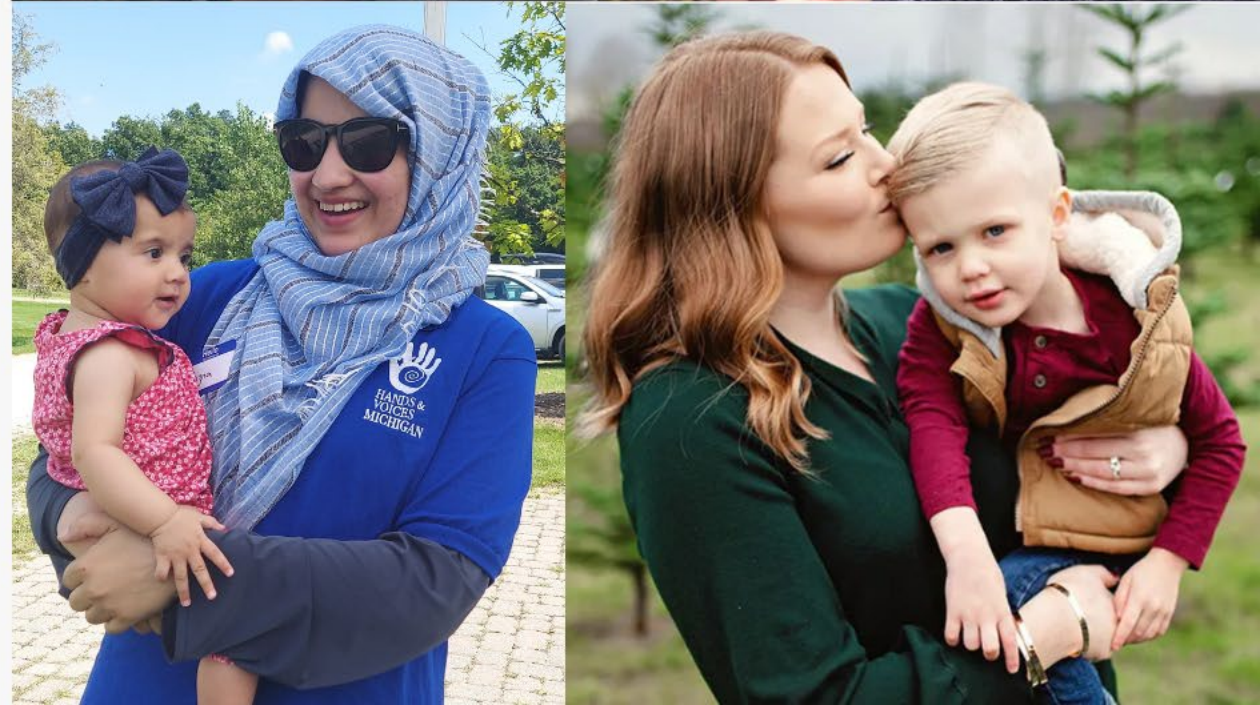
DHH Plus Communicator  
Articles:



DHH Plus Resources:



DHH Plus Facebook Page:





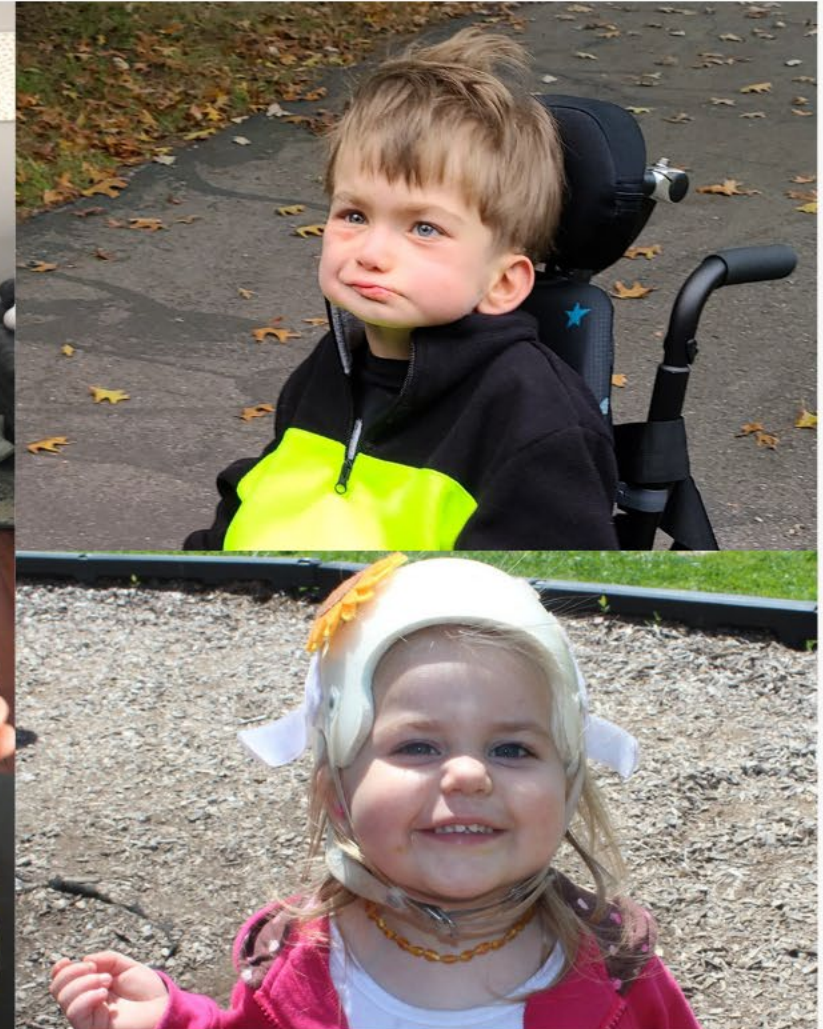
# HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS MAKING PROGRESS?

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Just as our confidence was growing, we became increasingly concerned there was more to puzzle of Weston. I vividly remember the first time I searched for “signs of autism” online. I knew something was different about Weston. I battled an inner dialogue every day that went back and forth between “it’s because he has hearing loss” and “this is autism”.

**-Britney Moell**  
Parent, Washington State

5 REASONS TO SAY  
YES TO  
ASSESSMENTS IN EI:





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**It was really daunting thinking about turning her over to other people and entrusting she'd be looked after and cared for.**

**-Laura Stewart**

**EHDI Followup Coordinator & Parent**

**TRANSITION TO  
PRESCHOOL:**



**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**



**ADVOCACY, SUPPORT  
AND TRAINING (ASTra):**



# WHAT RESOURCES AND SERVICES CAN HELP?



**Ask for co-treat between therapist at least once a quarter, this is huge to maximize therapy time and for the many different therapists to be aware and support other goals (like language goals) on all therapies the kiddo receives. You can work on language during PT, OT, DT, feeding... and give the kiddo a big push with every minute of intervention.**

**-Mariana Banquet,  
ASTra and GBYS Program Coordinator for Indiana Hands & Voices  
and H&V Latino Council Member**





**QUESTIONS?**

**COMMENTS?**



# THANK YOU

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FOR COMING

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