Idaho Sound Beginnings

Idaho Sound Beginnings is Idaho's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. Since 2000, the program has helped ensure that infants who are deaf or hard of hearing are identified early and connected with the services and support they need to thrive. Idaho Sound Beginnings works in partnership with healthcare providers, early intervention professionals, educators, community organizations, and family leaders to ensure that families receive the information, guidance, and support they need from the moment hearing concerns are identified. Through strong family-to-family connections and evidence-based early intervention services, Idaho Sound Beginnings connects children who are deaf or hard of hearing, from birth to age three, with services that help build language, communication, and literacy skills while empowering families every step of the journey.

1-3-6
EARLY IS URGENT!
Language Delays are a developmental emergency

Early diagnosis, intervention, and the prevention of language deprivation are crucial to the development of speech, language, cognitive, and psychosocial abilities. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) guideline is 1-3-6: screening by one month of age, diagnostic testing by three months, and early intervention (EI) services initiated by six months. The key role of EI is to provide an enriched language environment for the infant's developing brain as early as possible and promote optimal early language learning during this sensitive period of development.

1 MONTH



SCREENING
By 1 month of age

Newborn hearing screening measures a baby's auditory (hearing) system response to sounds. New in July 2026, all babies born in Idaho are required to get a hearing screening (Idaho Code 39-905A). While newborn hearing screening cannot determine whether a baby is deaf or hard of hearing, it informs parents if additional testing is needed.

3 MONTHS



DIAGNOSIS
By 3 months of age

Babies who do not pass the initial newborn hearing screening or the follow-up screening are referred to a pediatric audiologist for further diagnostic testing. This test confirms a baby's hearing level and determines whether or not they have hearing loss.

EHDI-Pals.org can help families find a Pediatric Audiologist.

6 MONTHS



EARLY INTERVENTION
By 6 months of age

Infants who have been diagnosed with permanent hearing loss of any degree (mild and unilateral cases included) or with an immediately qualifying diagnosis are eligible for EI services in ID at no cost to the family. In EI, providers and educators use a home-based coaching approach to help parents and caregivers embed strategies that promote the child's learning and development. Service plans are tailored to each family's unique needs and encompass multiple levels of family support. Families work with their early intervention team to identify appropriate services.

1450 Main Street, Gooding, Idaho 83330

idahosoundbeginnings@iesdb.org
208.829.2849
@Idaho Sound Beginnings
https://isb.iesdb.org
208.829.2848
idaho.sound.beginnings

i·e·s·d·b·
Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind