



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Dear Parent/Guardian Name

Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

The Maryland Department of Health's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (MD EHDI) is required by law to ensure that all infants receive a newborn hearing screen and are referred for all appropriate follow-up care. For children who are deaf or hard of hearing, early intervention is crucial in promoting the normal development of language skills and in avoiding the language delays experienced by late-identified children.

Our office recently received a report that Patient's Name has been identified as Deaf or hard of hearing. He/she is fortunate that you made sure he/she was identified early enough to get the help he/she needs for early language development. It is important that your baby starts the process to develop language now.

Delays in exposure to language can lead to language deprivation, which could have lifelong impacts on your child's development. While there are many communication options for you and your child to consider later in life, it is critical that your child receives exposure to language immediately.

We want to be sure you know that there are a large number of places and people ready and able to assist you in helping your infant develop language. In addition to the information listed below, please reach out to the Maryland State Department of Education's Infants and Toddlers program near you. Information for the Infant and Toddler Program in your area is: Insert County Specific Infants and Toddlers Program Information.

Enclosed you will find the following information to help you make decisions on what intervention program will work best for your baby and your family.

- ***Parent Connections Brochure.*** Parent Connections is a parent mentoring program for families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Parents connect with other parents who have first-hand experience and can answer and guide parents through this emotional time.
- ***Maryland State Department of Education Brochure.*** This brochure provides an overview of the Maryland Infant and Toddler Program and contact information.
- ***Maryland School for the Deaf Brochure.*** This brochure provides information about Maryland School for the Deaf and some of the resources the School provides.
- ***Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Fact Sheet.***