

Evaluations for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH)

Why Are Evaluations Important?

Evaluations help the team decide if children who are DHH qualify for Part B services. Evaluations focus on all areas of the child's development, including language, communication, social skills, and cognitive abilities.

Types of Evaluations

- **Language and Communication Evaluations:** Measure the child's ability to express and understand communication. Must match the child's age and primary communication method.
- **Hearing Evaluations:** Audiologists perform these to understand the child's hearing status and possible needs.
- **Developmental Evaluations:** Gather information on overall developmental skills and show how the child's access to language may have impacted their ability to meet milestones.

Best Practices for Evaluations

- Evaluations should happen in multiple settings, as a child who is DHH may perform differently depending on the environment.
- Combine data from different sources, including observations and family input.
- Families should be treated as equal partners in the decision-making process.

Key Considerations for Evaluation Teams

- **Collaboration:** Share insights, data, and observations to gain a well-rounded understanding of the child's needs.
- **Family Involvement:** Families provide important insights into their child's development, experiences, and preferences.
- **Comprehensive Assessments:** Evaluations must cover all areas of development, including language, thinking skills, social-emotional health, speech, and motor skills, not just hearing levels.

Resources

- Consult a local DHH provider, [CDHY](#), or the Washington [DeafBlind Project](#) to find appropriate evaluations.