

# Pathways



WASHINGTON STATE  
**HANDS &  
VOICES™**

## A Provider's Overview to Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Early Intervention



Hearing difference identified...

*At Birth*

or

*Before age 3*

EHDDI  
Early Hearing Detection,  
Diagnosis and Intervention

Newborn  
Hearing Screen



Audiologist



Part C Agency

Three Pronged Approach  
(TPA) or  
Medical Referral



Audiologist



Part C Agency

ESIT  
Deaf or  
Hard of Hearing  
Specialist

### What is an ESIT Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Specialist?

ESIT recognizes DHH Specialists and Associates in these roles:

- Developmental Specialists: DHH (Teachers of the Deaf)
- Pediatric Audiologists
- Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) trained in DHH
- Developmental Associates (Paraeducators)

Agencies may assign specific job titles such as

**Birth to Three Specialist, Communication Coach,  
Early Language Coach, Family Engagement Specialist, etc.**

### Why must an ESIT DHH Specialist join the team?

An ESIT Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Specialist brings specialized knowledge and skills to the IFSP process regardless of whether the child has been identified or is suspected of being DHH.

### How do I invite an ESIT DHH Specialist to the team?

It varies by provider agency in Washington. Refer to ESIT DHH Practice guide for more details.



**FAMILY TO  
FAMILY SUPPORT\***

Available. Anytime. Anywhere.

### What is Family to Family Support?

In Washington State, Hands & Voices offers parent support through their Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Program. This is a parent-driven organization that works with state agencies to provide support to families of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or have combined conditions.

### Why is GBYS important?

**GBYS Provides Families:**

- A trained parent, called Parent Guide, who provides free, flexible support to families with children from birth to 21.
- Validation and empowerment.
- Compassion and knowledge from parents with a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- Information, support, and tools to navigate challenging systems.
- Available anytime and anywhere.

### How to refer a family to GBYS.

**Referring families is easy.**

- Request permission for referral from the family
- Scan the QR code below
- Click "Request Support Form (Professionals)"



*Scan Here*

**TO REFER  
A FAMILY  
TO GBYS**

