

# Early Intervention

## Start sooner for better outcomes

- Early Intervention helps children with hearing loss – and their families – begin the process of learning to communicate through listening and spoken language. It's a first, vital step to being able to speak and laugh with their families and friends.
- It is crucial to start training a child's brain as early as possible. Speech and language development begins in infancy and is most easily acquired during the first three years of life while the brain is rapidly forming.
- Hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive listening devices must be worn during all waking hours to ensure clear and consistent access to sound, so a child can learn to understand what they hear.



- Parents should constantly talk with their children throughout the day. Great ways to spend time with infants and toddlers who have hearing loss include reading, building early vocabulary, listening activities, laughing, singing, talking during play, and encouraging and rewarding children to use their voices for communication.



- The sooner parents detect and address hearing loss, the better their child's chance of being successful in the mainstream. Early action leads to amazing outcomes.

## It's important. Really.

- We hear with our brains, not our ears. Our auditory brain centers begin developing in infancy.
- When the brain perceives sound, it begins to form neural pathways that enable those sounds to be interpreted and understood. By creating these pathways early in the brain's development process, a child gets a physical head start.
- Since so much neural growth takes place in the first three years of life, it's vital for children to get hearing aids or cochlear implants as early as possible and wear them all the time, maximizing opportunities for the brain to process sound.



## A program built on research, science and hope

- Every child is a unique individual with strengths and needs. Our Early Intervention program is individualized so every child can learn and grow in the best way for their distinct personalities and skill sets. The program starts in infancy and continues through three years of age.
- The program starts with Home Based Therapy in infancy, focused on family education and strategies to build listening, speech, and language skills into children's daily routines.
- Children also participate in individual therapy sessions with a Speech Language Pathologist for Aural Rehab and/or Speech Therapy. Parents are present as children focus on structured speech, language and auditory skill development.
- Parents have individual monthly meetings with the EI coordinator, teacher or therapist to discuss their child's progress, child development issues, strategies to use at home, and how to prepare for transitioning. Parents know they can rely on Child's Voice staff for any questions or concerns.
- Parents attend group meetings with other parents, led by a Child's Voice staff member. These meetings are a place for parents to ask questions, be educated on a variety of speech, language and social skill-related topics, and meet other families whose children attend the school.
- At 18 months, children can attend Group Therapy sessions. Classes take place in a fun, stimulating environment where children and their parents are surrounded by listening, speech and language-based activities while playing and socializing. Group is offered at both Wood Dale and Chicago locations.



"Child's Voice has impacted our family greatly by giving our daughter the optimum opportunity to succeed and grow to her full potential in speech and development. The therapists are caring, understanding and very knowledgeable in the care they give. We are very lucky to have found Child's Voice and their services for our daughter."

Child's Voice is a listening and spoken language school for children who have hearing loss. We teach our students to listen, speak and communicate effectively without the use of sign language to give them lifelong opportunities in the mainstream world.