

# Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING | KING, PIERCE, AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

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There are three ESIT programs in the community specialized at supporting families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. All three programs are committed to helping children reach their language and learning potential. However, each program has a unique approach to supporting communication.

Families and other caregivers are encouraged to visit, virtually visit, or gather information about each of the programs and communication methods. With the help of their Family Resource Coordinators, families then will build a service plan that meets their individual values, priorities, and needs.

Detailed information, contacts, and links to websites for each program are provided on the back of this sheet. Additionally, a YouTube video that describes each program can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J7JLFMqoPk#action=share>



The **Parent-Infant-Program (PIP)** educates and empowers families to communicate with confidence. We **utilize a bilingual educational approach with American Sign Language (ASL) and English (or the spoken language of the home, if not English)** to instill unrestricted access to language from the beginning and early bonding, regardless of hearing level. We look at the child and family holistically—from the infant as an individual with his or her unique strengths and needs, to the family as a whole entity working together to foster communication and emotional connections, and to the community and services at large that can help support and enlighten the family's experience.

Our certified early support teachers work to guide and support families when it comes to their choices about first language use, amplification options (hearing aids and cochlear implants), and technology available to their child. We also provide early literacy instruction and developmental education in the following areas: communication (ASL as well as spoken language and listening skills), cognition, social/emotional skills, fine/gross motor skills, and self-help skills. In addition, we share opportunities to connect with the local Deaf community and provide access to Deaf role models.

Home visits are at the heart of our program, where we tailor all of these services to each family's unique needs. In addition to off-site service in the family's natural environment, we have on-site 0-3 play-based infant and toddler care led by Deaf adults in an immersive ASL experience.

**ADDRESS**

Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center  
1625 19th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98122

**CONTACT**

**Anna Dodd, M.Ed**  
Director, Parent-Infant-Program  
ADodd@hsrc.org  
education@hsrc.org  
406-459-2243

**WEBSITE**

hsrc.org

**Listen and Talk's** vision is that no child is limited by hearing loss. **Our specially trained team uses a listening and spoken language (LSL) approach** to teach families and caregivers how to make sound meaningful in their homes and communities by using state of the art hearing technologies such as cochlear implants, hearing aids, DM systems and bone conduction sound processors. Our credentialed staff implements ongoing formal/informal assessments to develop targets, monitor progress, and determine next steps to meet your family's goals. Each family and child is unique and Listen and Talk's strength-based program gives families the ability to support their child's development. Our supportive coaching techniques help caregivers design, build, and strengthen the neurological pathways to the auditory centers of the brain so their children have the strong foundation they need to develop listening, spoken language, and reading skills just like children with hearing.

At Listen and Talk we understand the importance of each family's culture and home language. Children learn their first language through meaningful interactions with fluent users. Our relationship-based program thrives because we honor and value our partnership with families. Listen and Talk's services allow families to feel confident and less worried, giving them the energy and skills to focus on the joy of loving and communicating with their baby or toddler. Our specialists support each of our families to create meaningful and fun opportunities to practice listening skills where the soundscape of their world reflects the language and culture of their family.

Music and Movement Classes and Family Meeting Groups supplement family sessions by providing opportunities for families to meet other children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing while communicating through listening and spoken language.

**ADDRESS**

Listen and Talk 8244 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE  
Kirkland, WA

**CONTACT**

**Kim Hamren, M.Ed, LSL Cert AVT**  
Senior Birth to Three Specialist  
206-985-6646  
KimH@listentalk.org

**Tara Ellis, M.E.d, M.S., CCC-A**

Birth to Three Manager  
206-985-6646  
Tarae@listentalk.org

**WEBSITE**

listentalk.org

**Family Conversations uses a combined communication approach using signing, talking, and listening** to help families build strong parent-child relationships. We support and coach families as they learn the most effective ways to meet their goals for their child. Working together with families, we build the foundation for their child's success in school. Our many communication tools include amplification technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants and FM systems) listening and spoken language strategies (including music and singing), and visual communication including signing using Signing Exact English (S.E.E.). We offer Literacy Kits and Play Kits for use at home to promote language-rich interactions and set the foundation for being readers. Families learn and practice using language to share their family activities, values, and culture with their children. Each family has a Communication Coach who meets routinely in person and/or virtually to support the family's learning through daily routines and play. Communication Coaches regularly monitor and support over-all development. Our group settings and field trips are an opportunity for adults and children to connect with the larger community and to learn together.

Parent Conversations Group offers parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet and discuss their experiences raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and to meet deaf and hard-of-hearing teens and adults. Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing serves over 275 children a year in Western Washington.

**ADDRESS**

Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children  
Attn: Family Conversations  
15303 Westminster Way N PO Box 33666  
Shoreline, WA 98133

**CONTACT**

**Jill Bargones, PhD, CCC-A**  
Program Lead  
(206)364-4605  
j.bargones@northwestschool.com  
familyconversations@northwestschool.com

**WEBSITE**

northwestschool.com/family-conversations-nwshdh