



Essential

Parent Links

Revised 2009

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Adapted from the California Department of Health Services

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Children's Medical Services (CMS) Branch has implemented a statewide comprehensive Newborn Hearing Screening Program under the Health and Safety Code Sections relating to newborn hearing screening with amendments required by Assembly Bill (AB) 2651, Chapter 335, Statutes of 2007. The NHSP helps identify hearing loss in infants and guide families to the appropriate services needed to develop communication skills.



Families of infants delivered in general acute care hospitals with licensed perinatal services which have been certified by DHCS to participate in the NHSP will have the opportunity to have their baby's hearing screened. Infants who do not pass the screening in the hospital will be referred for additional testing after discharge. DHCS is contracting with Hearing Coordination Centers to work with the hospitals in developing hearing screening programs, to perform quality assurance activities, and to follow infants who need additional services.

In February of 2009 began offering referrals upon consent to Parent Links (Hope! Dream! Achieve!) mentors who work for Family Resource Network of California centers.

The mission of the Parent Links (Hope! Dream! Achieve!) program is to empower parents of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers by providing them with comprehensive information and awareness through mentoring, networking, and resources, and by honoring the family's relationship with their child and their choices in language and communication options and opportunities.

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