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## The North Dakota Parent-Infant Program for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Age Birth to Three Years Old, and their Families



“Serving all of North Dakota”



A Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent

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## Parent-Infant Program

A Family-Centered Approach for Supporting Families with Infants and Toddlers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

“Serving all of North Dakota”

### Services Provided by Teachers of the Deaf Parent-Infant Specialist

- ❖ Empower parents with specialized knowledge and skill about the impact of hearing loss.
- ❖ Reinforce and support families with helpful local, state and national resources.
- ❖ Integrate play activities in a family’s lifestyle to encourage communication, language, audition and speech skills.
- ❖ Identify strengths and needs of families to have full participation in the intervention plan that have appropriate outcomes.
- ❖ Collaborate through parent and professional partnerships to maintain consistency.
- ❖ Support parents in understanding the audiogram and how to monitor the use and care of their child’s hearing aids.
- ❖ Provide information regarding communication and educational options to assist with the transition out of the early intervention program(s).



A Parent-Infant Specialist combines fun with learning in a supportive environment for you and your family.

### Parent-Infant Program Team Members

Please direct referrals and questions to the Parent-Infant Program Specialist in your area:

#### Coordinator:

1401 College Drive N.  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Phone: 701-665-4400 or  
Toll Free: 1-800-887-2980

#### Grand Forks: *Northeast*

1401 College Drive N.  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Phone: 701-665-4420

#### Minot: *Northwest*

Memorial Hall  
500 University Avenue West  
Minot, ND 58707  
Phone: 701-858-3357

#### Bismarck: *Southwest*

418 East Broadway, Suite 228  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
Phone: 701-328-3987

#### Fargo: *Southeast*

1321 23rd Street South, Suite A  
Fargo, ND 58103  
Phone: 701-239-7374

#### Speech-Language Pathologist (Statewide)

C/O Mt. Pleasant School  
201 5th Street NE  
Rolla, ND 58367  
Phone: 701-477-5062

#### Sign Language (Statewide)

1321 23rd Street South, Suite A  
Fargo, ND 58103  
Phone: 701-239-7375

## Why Early Intervention?

The first months and years of a child's life provide the foundation for later learning. Research tells us the period between birth through age five is a critical window for development. Children learn from their environment - absorbing language, thinking skills, and social skills as they experience the world with their families and caregivers.

Infants and young children with hearing loss have many of the same needs as other young children, however, the impact of hearing loss creates unique developmental needs. Qualified early interventionists provide support for families and caregivers to help them recognize their strengths and weaknesses.



## Parent-Infant Overview

The North Dakota Parent-Infant Program for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, age birth to three years old, and their families offers intervention in a family's natural environment through daily routines.



Through regular visits to the child and family, certified teachers of the deaf address the family's concerns and help determine priorities. Together, families, caregivers and early interventionists share information, discuss ideas and adaptations and monitor the child's progress. The purpose is to enhance each family's ability to help his/her child to become a participating family member and a part of the larger community.

The program also supports families and caregivers as they plan for the transition of children out of early intervention services and into the family's selected option for their three to five year old child.

This program is offered at no charge to families throughout the state of North Dakota and is provided through the Parent-Infant Program of the North Dakota School for Deaf. Any child residing in North Dakota



with a suspected or diagnosed hearing loss can be referred to this program. Referrals can be made by family members, physicians, school districts, audiologists, speech and language centers or other agencies.

## What Parents are saying about PIP

*"No words could ever express our gratitude for all you have done and sacrificed for [my daughter]. Having two hearing impaired children and seeing the differences at the same age due to the times (ages) each were identified and the solid foundation [my daughter] now has just warms my heart."*

- Hettinger -



*"The Parent-Infant Program has been a very valuable program for our family. It has provided us with countless resources on hearing impairment, put us in contact with other parents of hearing impaired children, provided valuable one on one training, and given us hope, support and encouragement in our struggle to deal with raising children who are hearing impaired. Our boys have gotten a great start thanks to the Parent-Infant Program."*

- Milnor -