

Missouri 1-3-6 Guidelines for Infants with Hearing Loss

Message to Parents and Professionals

The 1-3-6 guidelines are meant to help parents and professionals guide their children/patients with hearing loss to achieve optimal results in a timely manner.

Missouri 1-3-6 Guidelines

By 1 Month of Age:

- Obtain initial hearing screening.

By 3 Months of Age:

- Obtain diagnostic hearing evaluation if infant failed the hearing screening.
- Refer child/family to Missouri First Steps immediately upon diagnosis of hearing loss.
- Obtain an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physician evaluation.
- Obtain an assessment for amplification (hearing aid) within one month of diagnosis.

By 6 Months of Age:

- Begin early intervention services.

What is First Steps?

First Steps is Missouri's early intervention program that provides services to families with children, birth to three years of age, with disabilities or developmental delays. First Steps is designed to meet the needs of families to enhance their child's development, learning, and participation in family and community life.

First Steps Contact Information

To refer an infant to the First Steps program, call (866) 583-2392 or obtain a referral form at:

<https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/parents>

Why the 1-3-6 Guidelines are Important

Children with any degree of hearing loss, involving one or both ears, need early intervention and services by 6 months of age to develop language, social skills, and academic levels comparable to their peers with typical hearing. This is true regardless of the type of hearing loss (conductive, sensorineural, mixed, or auditory neuropathy), and the communication mode chosen (e.g. sign language, listening and spoken language, or some combination of the two). Early access to specialized interventions and services results in improved outcomes for children with hearing loss.

(The efficacy of Early Identification and Intervention., Downs and Yoshinago-Itano; 1999, Ped Clinics of North America, 46-1.)

For more information go to:

www.babyhearing.org

www.cid.edu/freeonlinecourses

www.communicatewithyourchild.org

www.health.mo.gov/newbornhearingscreening

If you have questions about the 1-3-6 Guidelines for infants with hearing loss, contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Newborn Hearing Screening Program at (800) 877-6246.

