

Family Goodie Bags Get Parents Started

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Our program wanted to focus on providing better resources to families in a way that they could use right away. We came up with the idea to provide *Family Goodie Bags* to audiologists and Early Intervention (EI) professionals to share with families at their hearing aid fitting appointments or during a home visit from the EI professional.

The *Family Goodie Bag* consists of these items:

- A drawstring backpack with our logo
- A coupon for EarGear so they could purchase the exact type to fit their child's hearing device. (We also were able to obtain a few coupons for FREE EarGear for families in greater need--these will be provided on an as-needed basis and not included in each individual bag.)
- A pilot cap in either yellow, white, or pink to help families keep their babies' hearing devices safe from curious hands and mouths. :)
- A magnet with our parent-to-parent support program summary, logo, our social media pages and a QR code to our Facebook page.
- A flyer for the SignOn program through American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC). This flyer has a code for a free one-year membership to ASDC. Our program decided to purchase ASDC memberships for families in our state to help provide more language development opportunities, along with the opportunity to meet with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing adult at their convenience. We liked the SignOn program because they provide the option for families to meet other families or for their children to meet other children their ages, so there was flexibility depending on what the family wanted to do.
- Word/ASL Sign labels/flashcards: each goodie bag comes with 100 labels with black and white pictures and English words--the back has the ASL sign for the word; additionally, we have BabySigning Time flash cards with 100 vocabulary words each to provide for families that are more focused on learning ASL.

We decided to provide these *Family Goodie Bags* as a way for us to advertise more broadly

about the parent-to-parent support that our state offers. We had originally begun this process by providing infant board books to audiologists to provide to families at diagnosis, along with The Beginnings Parent Support Notebook. These goodie bags provided a way for us to expand this reach to families and we are hoping it will help parents feel more widely supported.

Because we do not have a Hands & Voices Chapter in our state, our Family-Based Organization (FBO) contracts directly with our state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program, and we, the parent support professionals, have the benefit of receiving support directly from the FBO in our state, which is the Utah Parent Center, and the ability to work directly with the Utah EHDI Program and are considered equal team members there. This collaboration between the two organizations has allowed us to reach more professionals directly and given us access to the largest existing parent support organization in our state. We work directly with both programs to implement these, and all the resources we provide for our families.