

# 5

# Reasons to Say YES to Assessments in Early Intervention for your Child who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing

## 1. Don't Guess: Assess!

Assessments help you and your IFSP\* team create a unique plan and set goals that are important to you and your family. Assessments build a "map" for the plan so you know where to focus as you help your child grow and develop in these early years – the fastest years of development!



## 2. Set the Bar High

Assessments help you discover and build on your child's strengths and gifts. Discussing strengths and needs will help you see how your child is developing compared to children of the same age. You will know if and in what areas your child needs extra support for play skills, concepts and language.

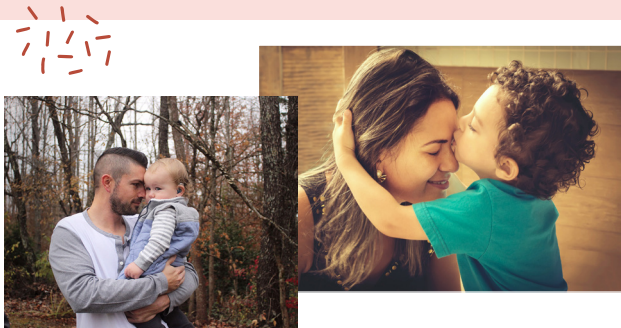
## 3. Take Your Place on the Team

Family involvement is the key to future success. Actively learning about your child through assessments helps you stay on top of their growing abilities to communicate, understand, and express their feelings and thoughts. Professionals and families working and problem-solving together are unstoppable.



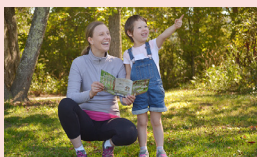
## 4. Confirm Your Intuition

Your gut instincts as a parent should be taken seriously. They are part of the mix of what you know to be true about your child. Assessments can quantify your feelings about where your child needs to grow. Completing assessments every six months and monitoring regularly can catch any developing issues. This allows you and your team to change the plan together if needed to better meet your child's needs.



## 5. Smooth the Transition to Preschool

You will have a current, full picture of your child's strengths and needs to share with the new team as your child transitions to school. How does your child communicate best? Where will your child benefit from additional support? What are their strengths? You'll have insights to share at the eligibility meeting which leads to strong suggestions for goals and services. You'll be more confident working with the school team with the knowledge you have gained.



\*IFSP means Individual Family Service Plan, the plan for services for your child who is under age three within Early Intervention. For more information, contact [fl3@handsandvoices.org](mailto:fl3@handsandvoices.org), your state or territory's Part C Coordinator or a local Early Intervention provider.



University of Colorado  
Boulder

