

Module 1: Early Identification: Newborn Infant Hearing Screening and Evaluation; The Importance of Ensuring Early Access to Language

Section: Communication and Language Milestones



Activity 1.10: Guiding Families in Facilitating Early Language and Literacy Milestones

- A. Explore reading milestones for babies using the resource materials in the website [Reach Out and Read](#). Discuss what role reading to their child will play in helping their child meet language milestones as well as reading milestones.
- B. Routinely incorporate books into your home visit. Let the child choose which books to read:
- Use the [Milestones of Early Literacy Development](#) chart to engage the child's caregiver in looking for behaviors as his or her baby interacts with books.
 - Use the "Anticipatory Guidance" section of the chart to coach the family in identifying the milestones that the child is demonstrating (e.g., "Look, he just turned the book right side up.").
 - Use the chart to review the child's progress. Monitor and celebrate progress with families, and look forward to future reading stages to develop strategies.
- C. The "What Parents Can Do" section of the Reach Out and Read milestones chart suggests that parents who are bilingual are encouraged to "read and speak in their first language." A child who is deaf may or may not have access to the family's first language. Use this talking point as a springboard to discuss the importance of reading aloud to their child in a way that is accessible (e.g., ASL or spoken English depending on if the child has access).

- D. Discuss the principles in the Shared Reading Project, developed by the Clerc Center to provide tutoring and support to parents and caregivers to facilitate effective strategies for families to share books with their young deaf or hard of hearing children, including the 15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children.
- E. For families speaking Spanish:
- Use the Reach Out and Read milestones chart in Spanish.
 - Show families the Spanish version of the 15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children.

Additional Resources:

- Reach Out and Read, Milestones of Early Literacy Development
 - Reach Out and Read, Watch Our Story
 - Shared Reading Project, including the 15 Principles for Reading to Deaf Children (available in ASL and Spanish)
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