



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

«DateGenerated»

«ContactFirstName» «ContactLastName»
«ContactAddress»«ContactAptOrSuite»
«ContactCity»«ContactState»

RE: «PatientFirstName» «PatientLastName»
DOB: «PatientDOB»

Dear Ms. «ContactLastName»:

Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

The Maryland Department of Health's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (MD EHDI) is required by law to ensure that all infants receive a newborn hearing screen and are referred for all appropriate follow-up care. For children who are deaf or hard of hearing, early intervention is crucial in promoting the normal development of language skills and in avoiding the language delays experienced by late-identified children.

Our office recently received a report that «PatientFirstName» has been identified as deaf or hard of hearing. «HeShe_UC» is fortunate that you made sure «HeShe_UC» was identified early enough to get the help she needs for early language development. It is important that your baby starts the process to develop language now.

Delays in exposure to language can lead to language deprivation, which could have lifelong impacts on your child's development. While there are many communication options for you and your child to consider later in life, it is critical that your child receives exposure to language immediately.

We want to be sure you know that there are a large number of places and people ready and able to assist you in helping your infant develop language. In addition to the information listed below, please reach out to the Maryland State Department of Education's Infants and Toddlers program near you. Information for the Infant and Toddler Program in your area is:

«EarlyInterventionName»
«EarlyInterventionPhone»

Enclosed you will find the following information to help you make decisions on what intervention program will work best for your baby and your family.

- **Maryland State Department of Education Brochure.** This brochure provides an overview of the Maryland Infant and Toddler Program and contact information.

- ***Maryland School for the Deaf Brochure.*** This brochure provides information about Maryland School for the Deaf and some of the resources the School provides.
- ***Beginnings, MD Brochure***
- ***MD/DC Hands & Voices Brochure***

We want you to know that we are here for you during this process and send our best wishes as you lead «PatientFirstName» to a bright future. If you need additional resources or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at Erin.Filippone@maryland.gov or via phone at 410-767-6762.

Sincerely,



Erin D. Filippone, M.Ed., CCC-A
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
Maryland Department of Health
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Email: Erin.Filippone@maryland.gov

Please visit
http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics/docs/Infant_Hearing/DHMH%20EHDI%20English.pdf to
view the electronic version of this letter, which is also available in other languages including
Spanish and American Sign Language.