



## How Referrals are made to PIP

A referral is made when the diagnosing audiologist contacts Children's Integrated Services (CIS). CIS then sends the referral to PIP. CIS may also make a referral on a child already enrolled in CIS that is later diagnosed with a hearing loss.

While your family waits for the referral process to be completed, a parent advisor will reach out to you to provide information, an overview of services and answer any questions.

### CONTACT US

Camilla Strauss, Coordinator

Email: [Camilla.Strauss@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Camilla.Strauss@uvmhealth.org)

Web: [www.dhhdbsp.net](http://www.dhhdbsp.net)

Fax: (802) 951-1218 attn. Linda Hazard

## Our Philosophy

We believe that you, the family, are the most effective teacher. The most meaningful intervention happens in your daily interactions with your child. We strive to empower your family so you can teach, model and support your child's early language and communication development.

## Parent Infant Program (PIP)

**Early Intervention for families and their children (Birth-3 years) who are deaf or hard of hearing**



[UVMHealth.org/MedCenter](http://UVMHealth.org/MedCenter)

THE  
**University of Vermont**  
 MEDICAL CENTER



## You have just learned that your child has a hearing loss.

## PIP is a free program that will provide support to your family.

Our staff, who are called parent advisors, have years of experience working with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. They are available to help answer questions and provide information as you navigate the many decisions you will need to make for your child.

A parent advisor will meet in your home and/or your child's daycare. They will build a relationship with your family and get to know the goals you have for your child to ensure full language and learning potential is reached. They will discuss hearing technology and communication choices your family will make.

The parent advisor will discuss language and communication options objectively and will listen to your concerns.

## A parent advisor can help you with:

- Emotional support and connecting you with other parents and resources
- Developing your child's language and communication skills
- Understanding the relationship between language and brain development
- Unbiased information about communication options for your child
- Using listening and visual accommodations/strategies to support communication within your daily routines
- Understanding your child's hearing so you can make informed decisions
- The use and care of hearing devices
- Monitoring language development to help your child reach their milestones
- Empowering you to become an advocate for your child
- Providing support and information about transition to school



## What people are saying about PIP

"Our parent advisor was the first service provider who saw our family and deafblind child as competent. She supported our decisions and encouraged our child to interact with people and things in our child's world. She truly connected with our child on the most basic level. She expanded learning and experiences from that trust base."

– **Michelle J., Parent**

"PIP is a wonderful resource that provides support and works in collaboration with families, schools service providers and VT Early Intervention. PIP provides valuable information that helps a child's team understand how to best support children who are deaf or hard of hearing."

– **Yari Candelaria-Rodriguez, Developmental Educator**

"Parent advisors are an important part of the supportive team for parents and families of children with hearing loss. The range of services changes in response to the specific needs of the families. As an audiologist, I'm grateful for their role in counseling, support, and education. I've seen the benefits of this program for many Vermont families."

– **Dr. Julie Porter, UVM Medical Center**