



DT/H

Resources:



[Learn more about the various Developmental Therapist roles](#)



[Information on communication choices](#)



[Early Intervention](#)

What is a DT/H and why is it important for my child and family to work with one?

- DT/H stands for Developmental Therapist – Hearing Specialist. A DT/H has a college degree in education for the deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh), holds a professional educator license in the state of Illinois, and has met the requirement to be a credentialed Early Intervention (EI) Provider.
- A DT/H can provide developmental therapy – hearing services, also known as aural rehabilitation services.
- A DT/H is different from a Developmental Therapist (DT). A DT is a child development specialist who is knowledgeable about how young children develop age-appropriate skills. A DT/H is also a child development specialist; however they also have specialized training in hearing loss and how it impacts all the areas of a child's development.
- A DT/H is knowledgeable about the different communication modes used by children who are d/hh and their families, and are responsible for providing objective, unbiased information about each communication mode. Some DT/H's may specialize in one communication mode over another. Each family should have a DT/H that can support them in the communication mode of their choice.
- Children who are d/hh may struggle to develop their listening and language skills. A DT/H can coach families on how to grow these skills through their daily routines and with the toys and resources that they have at home.
- A DT/H is knowledgeable about a variety of hearing devices and can help parents learn how to troubleshoot the devices and to get their child to keep the devices on.
- A child diagnosed with hearing loss is eligible for an initial evaluation for services with a DT/H. The evaluation will determine if a child qualifies for services and when they can start.
- A baby who is born with hearing loss could begin receiving services from a DT/H when they are as young as 2 or 3 months old. A DT/H can work with your child and your family through EI until your child is 3 years old and then ages out of the program.