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RE: Program Options (Parent Infant Program for the Deaf)

Dear Parents,

Early intervention is the most influential place in a child's development. We are pleased that you are trusting USDB to deliver the highest quality of service possible for your child and family. It is critical that we focus on one goal, providing you with the skills to be the leader in your child's educational future. With that goal in mind, we have created an improved plan to strengthen the quality and breadth of services available to all Deaf/Hard of Hearing children across the state.

The Parent Infant Program for the Deaf is implementing a comprehensive program that includes the expertise of a language specialist in either ASL/English or Listening and Spoken Language. When you are introduced to the program an Orientation Specialist will guide you through a balanced approach to setting language goals for your child and family. The orientation process will include experiential exposure to language options available within the USDB program. The therapist you are paired with will assist you in crafting a plan to obtain your family's desired language outcome through the creation of a "Language Map." Once you have chosen a language option, the therapist will review the components of the program and discuss which components best meet the needs of your family. Those components will be the guide to obtain your desired language outcome. The components of the program are as follows:

Intensive Home Based Therapy

Therapy is provided in a natural setting, such as the home, with the intention of capitalizing on the "prime language" growth of that critical birth-3 year old stage of brain and language development. The home/natural environment is used to extract experiential language building opportunities that guide parents to be the engineers of their child's communicative future.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per week (60 minute sessions)

Intensive Center Based/Clinical Therapy

Clinical therapy is initiated with the goal of empowering families to take control of the cognitive and speech and language development of their children in a controlled family friendly environment. Often families find that clinical therapy proves to be a tool to provide a more focused and directed environment.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per week (60 minute sessions)

Toddler Therapy Groups

Toddler Therapy Group is a time when children and families interact in a small group environment that strengthens confidence and educational relationships, while increasing their knowledge about how children develop. In turn families expand global expectations for their kiddo's development. While being instructed by a qualified professional specializing in either ASL/English or Listening and Spoken Language children begin to heighten pragmatic ability, executive function, communicative structures and overall language expansion.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per week (90 minutes each class)

Parent Education Sessions

The educational journey of a family defines how a journey will unfold. The PIPD team is committed to collaborating with parents to craft a parent education plan that will include a variety of topics specific to the needs of each individual family. The goal of the educational process is to provide parents with a continuous stream of information that we hope will guide all parents to take the lead in their child's educational future. Parent education is provided in the home and is guided by an ASL/English or Listening and Spoken Language Specialist.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per month (60 minute sessions)

Parent Support Groups

Support groups allow families to discuss successes and challenges in a family friendly forum. The support groups will structure will provide time for families to actively participate in small group education and parental support sessions. The setting will allow for both personal discussion led by parents and/or a structured sense of support led by ASL/English or Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. Sessions will be held at various USDB campus locations.

Family Service Option: Up to 10 times per year (120 minute sessions)

Playgroups

The PIPD Playgroups are free play opportunities with an environment of fun and relaxation. Parents meet other families that are experiencing similar stories and circumstances while children run, play and make new friends. This is a priceless chance for siblings, grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts and friends to come together and share experiences, successes, challenges and resolutions. Groups are hosted at various USDB campuses.

Family Service Option: Up to once per month (90 minute sessions)

Deaf Mentor Services

Deaf Mentor services occur in the home setting. Deaf adults, who utilize American Sign Language (ASL), offer unique experiences that are only available through Deaf Community experience. Deaf Mentors are available to families who choose the outcome of ASL/English. They provide expertise in the area of ASL, Deaf Culture and cultural integration. Mentors have one primary goal; teach the families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing families how to communicate with their Deaf or Hard of Hearing child through ASL.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per week (60 minute sessions)

Center Based Deaf Mentor Services

Learning American Sign Language (ASL) takes more than watching a video or taking a foundational class. It takes real life interaction. Through our Center Based Deaf Mentor services parents are able to learn from Deaf adults foundational to advanced vocabulary, language structure and cultural components of ASL through interacting directly with Deaf adults, other parents and families. The small group environment is relaxed and inviting for all parents who choose an ASL/English outcome.

Family Service Option: Up to once per week (90 minute sessions)

Intensive Audiological Intervention

Amplification is paramount for the development of auditory awareness and spoken language. Audiological management will be offered at each therapy interaction; this includes in home or clinical therapy sessions and toddler therapy groups. Instruction will involve parents learning strategies to maintain the amplification device and troubleshoot the device if needed.

Family Service Option: Up to twice per week (60 minute sessions)

Related Services Consultation/Intervention

Service providers such as occupational therapist, physical therapist, psychologist and speech pathologist to name a few will be in partnership with the USDB team to ensure that should a challenge arise, the team has access to qualified professionals. These types of services will be by request and on an as needed basis.

Family Service Option: As needed

Demonstration Center

The Home Demonstration Center is a home-like environment where families can come and experience language intervention sessions with either an ASL/English or Listening and Spoken Language Specialist. Specialists guide you through the Center and model how language can be learned in most any situation throughout the home environment. The Center consists of a bedroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, 3 ½ bathrooms, two therapy rooms, four offices and a conference room for your learning enjoyment! We are thrilled parents have the opportunity to come to the Center and spend an entire day or two full days learning about how to be the leader in their child's educational future.

Family Service Option: Per Request

Intensive Assessment Protocol

Knowing where your child stands in his/her language journey can be half the battle. The USDB Specialist along with the Early Intervention Centers will complete a comprehensive assessment of each child's cognitive, expressive, receptive, vocabulary and fine and gross motor development. This information will be shared with families and updated on a continual basis. Knowing is really half the battle!

Family Service Option: Quarterly

Thank you for supporting USDB and we look forward to an amazing year of language growth!

Sincerely,

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