

Exploring Parent Perspectives: When Should Professionals in Early Intervention Offer Families Access to Deaf Adults?

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What we know about Deaf Adults in Early Intervention

Deaf Role Models

Deaf Children Have Greater Language Gains

(Watkins et al., 1998)

Hearing Parents Feel Confident in Their Child's Upbringing

(Hintermair, 2000)

Deaf Parents

Deaf Children Have Bilingual Bimodal Advantage

(Davidson et al., 2014)

Deaf Children Have Vocabulary Advantage

(Yoshinaga-Itano et al., 2017)

What we know about Deaf Adults in Early Intervention

29%

Family Based Organizations (FBO) offer support from DHH role models

Health Resources & Services Administration 2020 Goal

“Increase by 10 percent the number of families enrolled in DHH adult-to-family support services by no later than 9 months of age”

Research Questions

- 1 When are parents offered DHH adult-to-family support?**
- 2 What are parents' preferred timing for DHH adult-to-family support?**

Respondents

Survey:

Google form

Recruitment:

Email

Respondents:

Parents with DHH children
of any age in the US

Data Collection:

March 2023 to July 2023

Total Respondents	165
Incomplete	-1
Multiple Children	-13
Deaf Parents	-22
Hearing parents with one child	129

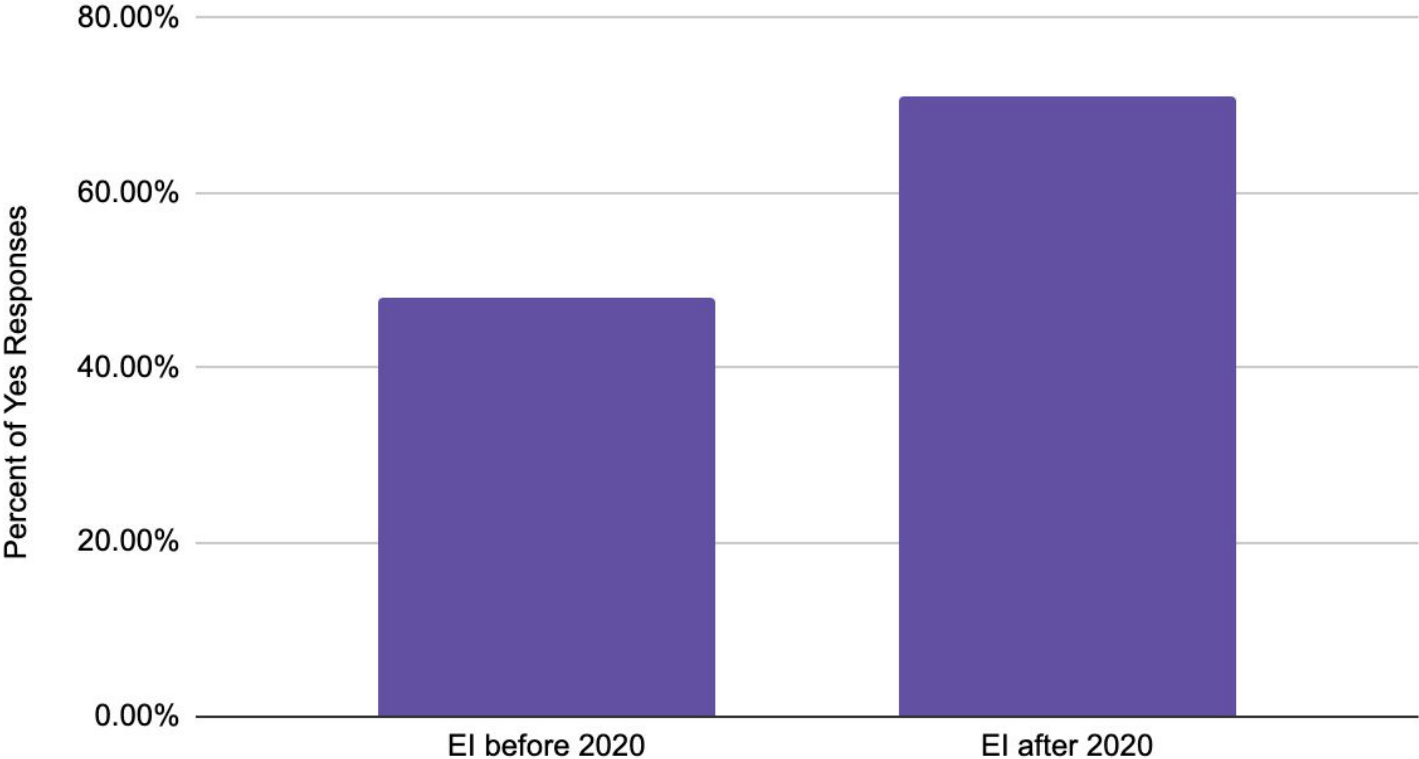
EI Before 2020: n = 94 EI After 2020: n = 35

DHH adult-to-family support services: Survey Questions

- **Offered or not offered?**
- **When offered?**
- **Accept or decline?**
- **Prefer earlier or later?**
- **Prefer how old?**

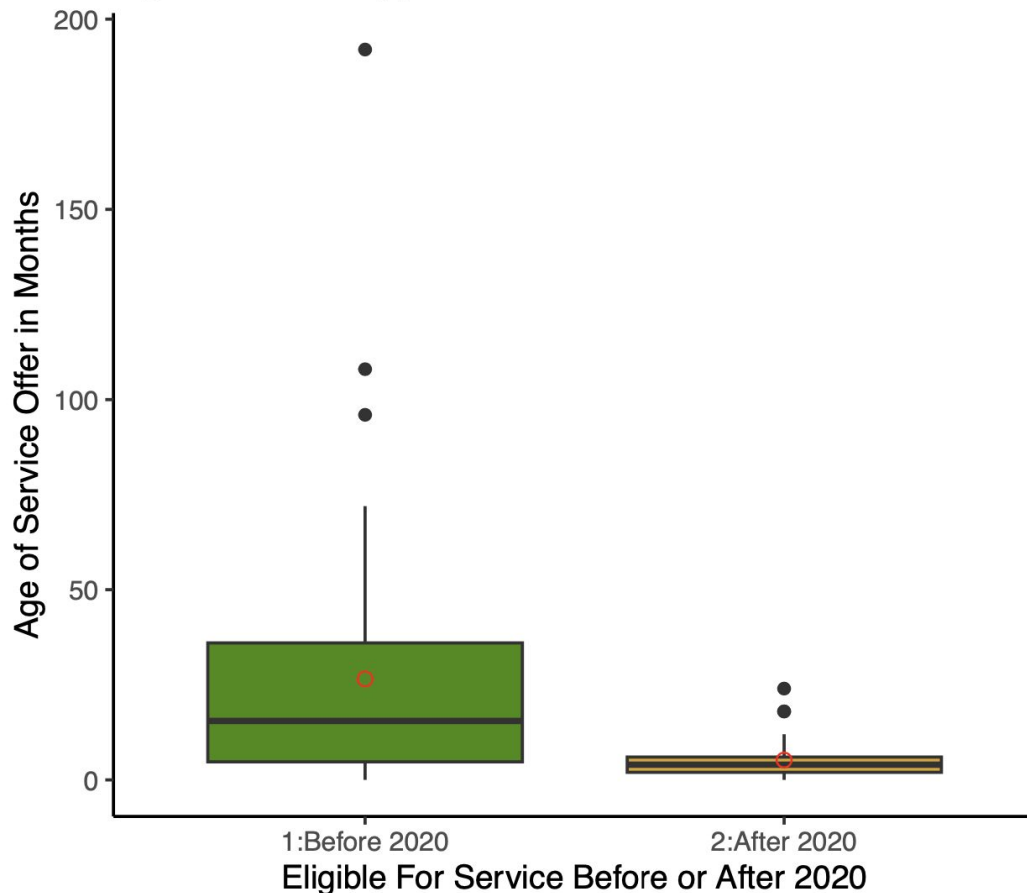
DHH adult-to-family support services: Offered

Were families offered DHH support services?



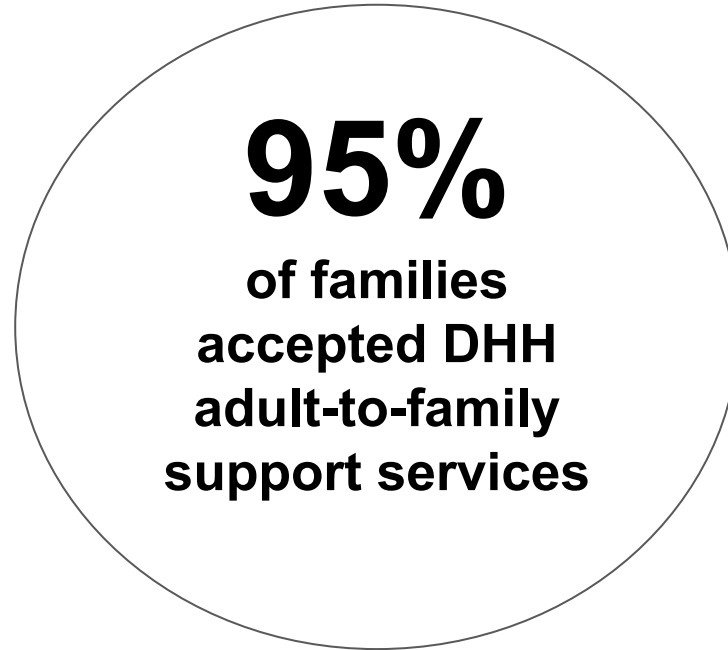
DHH adult-to-family support services: When

Age of DHH Support Offered Before and After 2020



	<u>Before</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>After</u> <u>2020</u>
Mean	26 mo	5 mo
Median	15 mo	4 mo
SD	34.06	5.83

DHH adult-to-family support services: Accept



“There's not reason not to meet a D/HH adult and many reasons to do so”

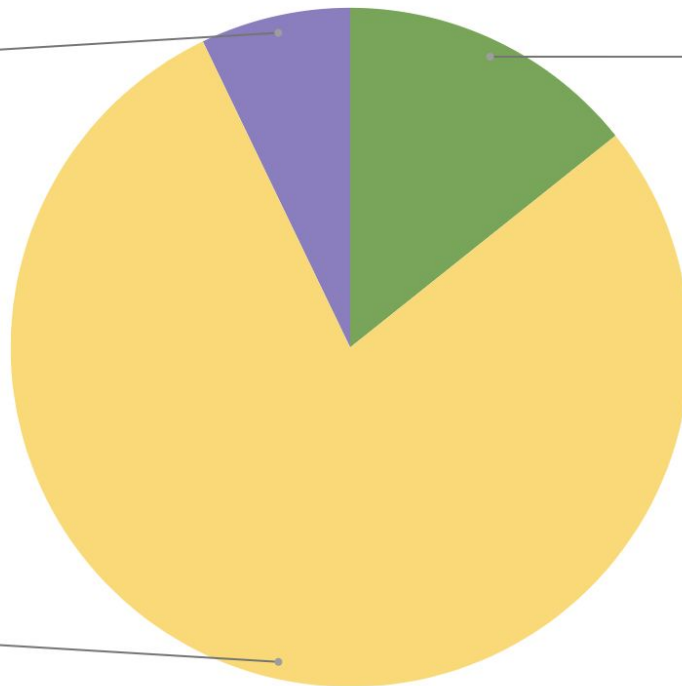
DHH adult-to-family support services: Preferred timing

Percent of parents preferred time for DHH support

Prefer later
7.1%

Good timing
14.3%

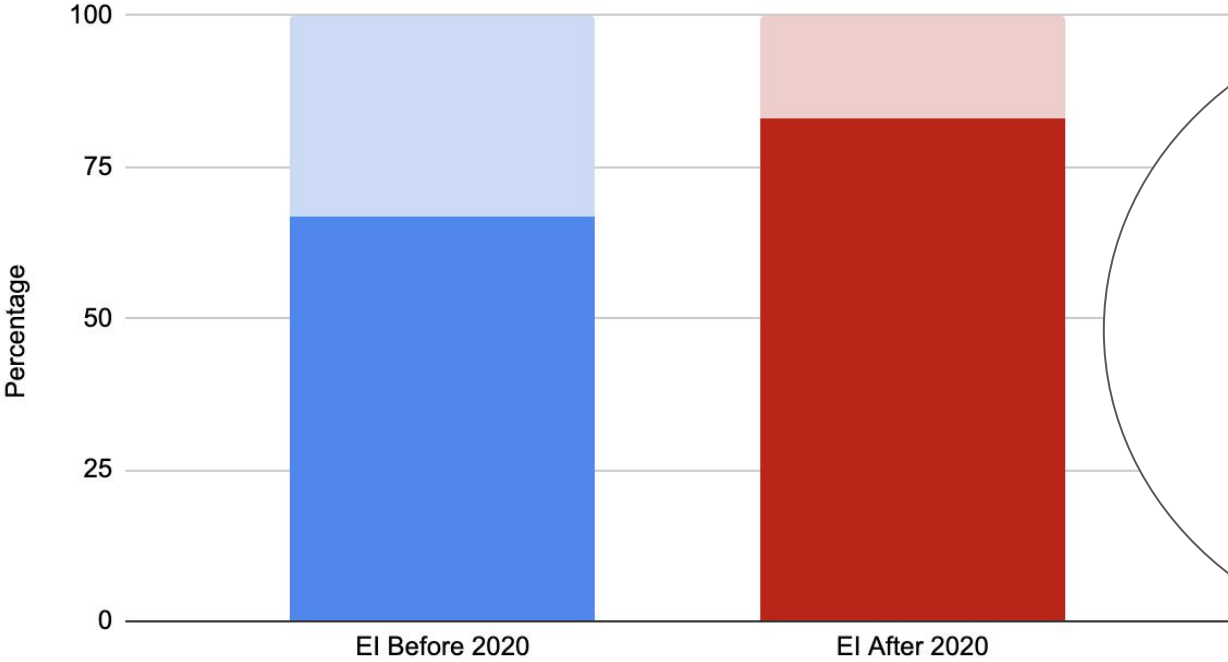
Prefer earlier
78.6%



“Meet Deaf role models as early as you can.”

DHH adult-to-family support services: Preferred age

DHH Exposure Preferred Age (before 3 months)



83%
of families eligible
for EI services
after 2020 prefer
DHH exposure
before 3 months

“You will wish you met Deaf adults earlier once you get to know them.” 50

**When Should Professionals in Early
Intervention Offer Families Access to
Deaf Adults?**

Before 3 months

DHH adult-to-family support services: Parent Quotes

Timing of Deaf Mentors/Coaches

“Meet deaf and hard of hearing adults as early as possible after finding out your child is deaf or hard of hearing. These interactions changed my child's life - and mine.”

“Meet someone as soon as possible! Pay attention to everything they tell you! Their experiences are so important, so valuable! And don't let it be limited to meeting one person, once. Get involved in the local Deaf community and give your kiddo the village they deserve!!”

DHH adult-to-family support services: Parent Quotes

Families' Experiences with Deaf Mentors/Coaches

“I remember our first meeting with a Deaf mentor. I burst into tears-here was a smart, funny, kind person cooing over my baby. Deaf mentors aren't just for our children, they are for us, the parents, showing what sort of wonderful adult our kids can grow up to be.”

“Connecting with deaf/hard of hearing adults has only enriched our lives. Be open to new community and relationships. Building connections takes time so try to be patient.”

DHH adult-to-family support services: Parent Quotes

Families' Words of Wisdom about Deaf Mentors/Coaches

“Do it! There's no reason not to meet a D/HH adult and many reasons to do so, not the least of which is simply meeting someone who can help you envision a future for your child.”

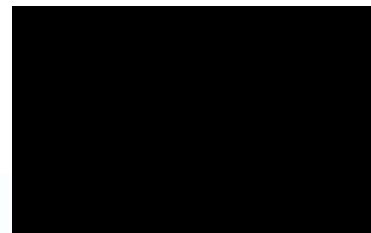
“Take advantage of anytime/any service that is offered. If you get the opportunity to meet a D/HH adult, do it. It will help you along this journey and will give you the confidence of knowing that your D/HH child will be amazing when you see how wonderful the D/HH adults in our community are.”

DHH adult-to-family support services: Call to action

Action	Descriptions	Examples
Formalize & Fund	Funds for deaf adults in leadership roles	Protocols requiring deaf adults to be included
Collaborate & Communicate	Deaf adult Resources	Collaborative research projects
Educate & Evaluate	Programs to ensure deaf adults are infused	Measurable goals
Infuse & Include	Deaf adults in programs at all levels	Deaf adults from diverse backgrounds

3 Identify Strategies for Deaf Involvement

- Ensure family events (Schools for the Deaf, family organizations, other events) include DHH adults
- Take the lead in your state to ensure DHH are available to support
- Connect with your state's EHDI coordinator and Early Intervention to inquire about funding possibilities
- Look at every window opportunity in your system to include DHH adults



[Strategies Video](#)

Audiologist/Doctor

- Deaf/HH Connections

Early Intervention

- Deaf/HH Connections

Times of Transition

- Deaf/HH Connections

Call to Action

Each state's Deaf-centered organization and school for the Deaf led by Deaf leadership are strongly encouraged to apply for HRSA grant at the next cycle in 2029.

Thank You

Families for taking time to respond to the survey

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