

Language Assessment Program-Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

What is the language assessment program for deaf/hard of hearing children (LAP-DHH)?

In accordance with K.S.A. 75-5397e, a language assessment program was established to assess, monitor, and track the language developmental milestones of each child who is deaf or hard of hearing from birth through age eight in Kansas.

As part of the program, an annual language assessment shall be provided for each of these children for the purpose of achieving age-appropriate language development and providing data-driven interventions. The assessments will evaluate ASL and/or English based on your child's needs.

How are the assessments performed?

After receiving your written consent, a specialist from the LAP-DHH program will come to your child's school and/or the home to do the assessments in your child's preferred language(s). The specialist will meet with you to go over the results. The assessments are performed every six months to follow your child's language development progress.

What is the cost?

There is currently no cost to participate in this program.

What happens with the results?

Specific assessment results will be shared with you and your child's support staff. Combined results of all deaf/hard of hearing children birth through age eight will be shared with the Kansas State Legislature.

Is this program just for children who are receiving special education services?

No, this program is for *any* child who is deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) birth through age eight regardless of whether they have an IFSP, IEP, or 504 plan including those who might not currently qualify for additional support.

When will my child be eligible to be enrolled in LAP?

2019-2020: All children who are DHH ages three to eight who attend Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) and all children who are DHH ages three to eight who have been observed or evaluated by KSD's Outreach Program.

2020-2021: All children who are DHH in Kansas ages birth to three.

2021-2022: All children who are DHH in Kansas ages three to five.

2022-2023: All children who are DHH in Kansas ages five to eight.

If you have further questions, feel free to ask your LAP-DHH specialist or contact Angie Walker, LAP-DHH Coordinator at 913-343-0103 or awalker@kssdb.org.

The Language Assessment Program is such a valuable opportunity for our family! We have two hard of hearing children, our eldest was too old for the initial phase of the LAP but our younger son was able to participate in the program. Although he is hard of hearing, we chose ASL as his first language due to some medical problems that left him unable to wear his hearing aids, and we did not want him to suffer from language deprivation.

We love the LAP because our family are not native ASL users and while we worked hard to teach our son what we could, we knew we couldn't teach him all of the ASL that he needed to acquire. Once he started preschool at KSD's early childhood program, we reviewed his results at his IEP and we were thrilled to see his progress in ASL. If it weren't for the LAP, we wouldn't have as good of a grasp of our son's language abilities. Since this program follows him until he is 8 years old, we are confident that he will not fall behind in language and will have a solid foundation for learning and communicating.

~Parent Testimony

The limits of my language are the limits of my world.

~Ludwig Wittgenstein

