

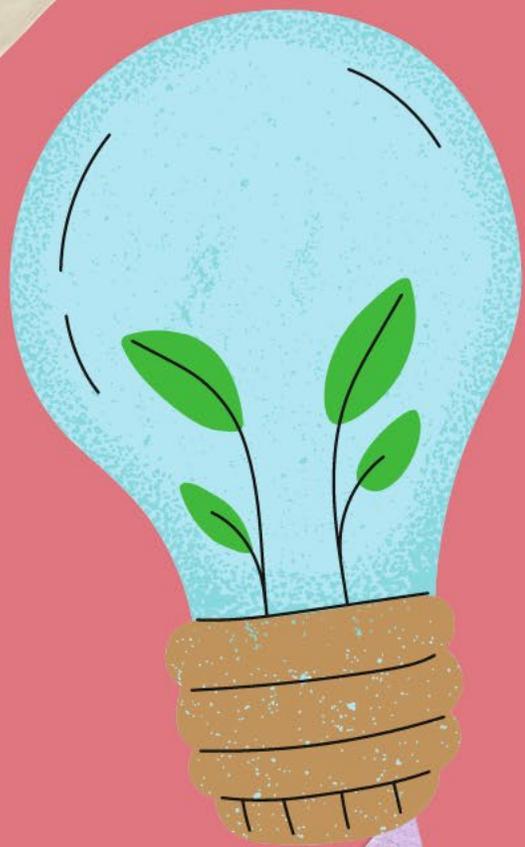
DIRECT REFERRALS

What We've Learned

Presented by: Carrie Balian

Learning Objectives

1. Compare the shift we've seen in the needs of families with children who have a child who is deaf/hard of hearing since receiving referrals directly from our state EHDI program.
2. Summarize the feedback the parent-to-parent support team has experienced working directly with parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing.
3. Identify at least 3 tools our parent-to-parent support team utilizes while working directly with families.

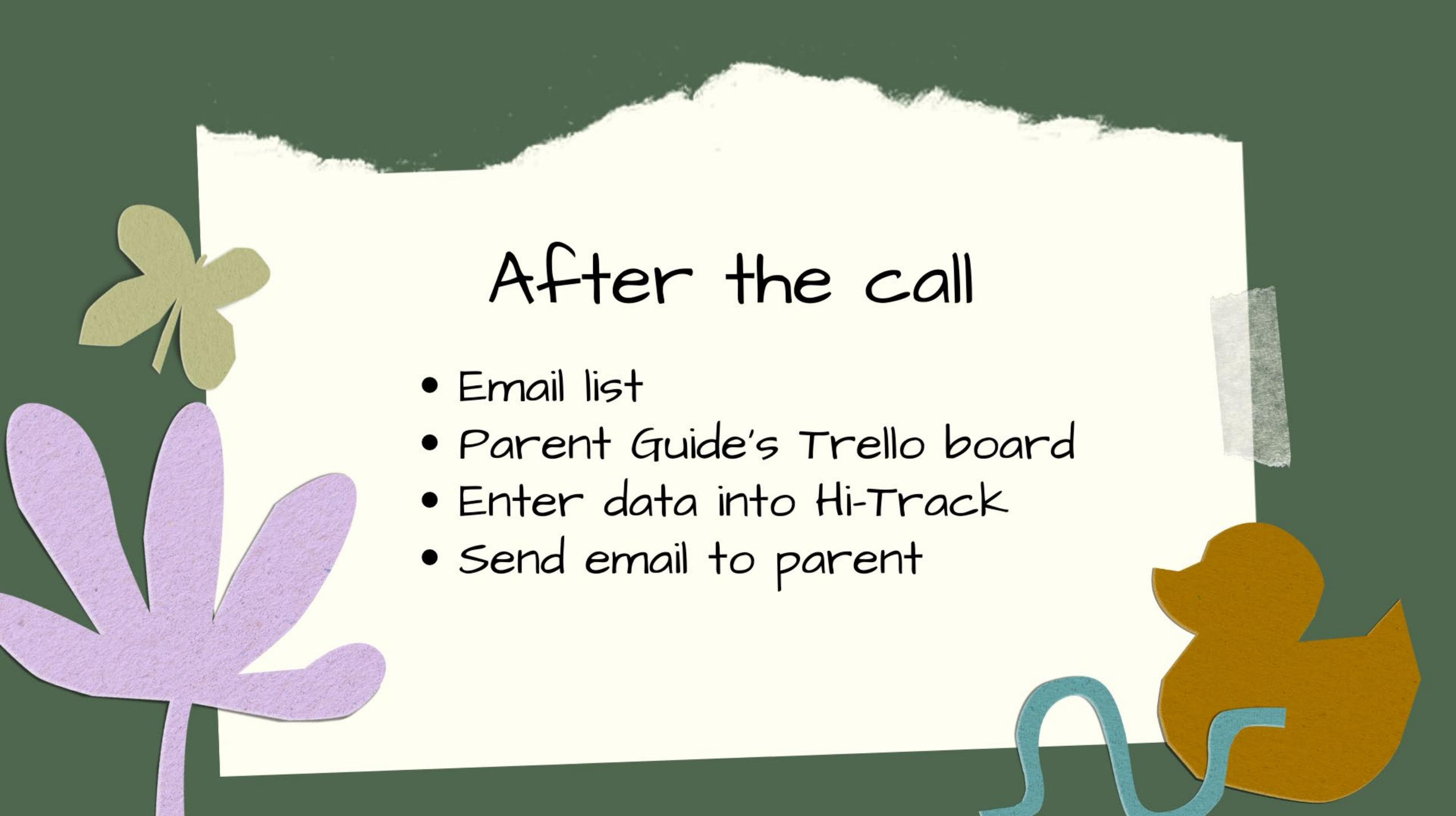


GBYS was an essential tool for my family as we transitioned into a new life. We had a newborn who had a heart condition which would require surgery.. we knew about this condition while I was pregnant but then we were blindsided with the news of his hearing deficit on top of that. GBYS gave me an outlet to get things off my chest about whole situation without feeling judged or misunderstood. It provided me the link I needed for more information on what to expect and what sorts of help and support there are for children with these deficits. It also gave me some hope, at that time it was very hard to see the bright side of things with all that my precious newborn had going on, my guide was very reassuring and was sort of a leading light for us. Her guidance helped ease my worries and made me feel a little more in control, confident and knowledgeable.

Shift in needs of families served

- Young / Newborn
- First point of contact
- Unsure of who does what, what the results mean, Confused
- Variety of hearing differences
- All languages





After the call

- Email list
- Parent Guide's Trello board
- Enter data into Hi-Track
- Send email to parent

SNIPET'S

Simple

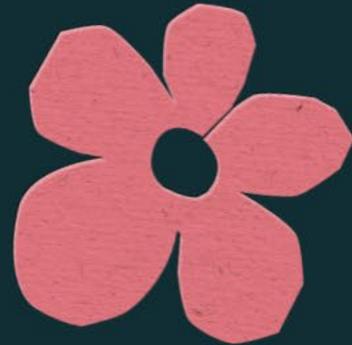
aNd

Informative

Parent

Education

Tools



Navigating EI in Illinois

What does Early Intervention (EI) in Illinois look like for children who are deaf/hard of hearing?

Resources:



[IDHS - Early Intervention](#)



[JCIH summary](#)

- EI helps eligible babies and toddlers from birth to three years old with disabilities or delays to learn and grow.
- A medical professional may refer a family to EI, or a family can contact their local Child and Family Connections (CFC) office directly to request an evaluation.
- There are 25 CFC offices in the state of Illinois, and each has a number based on location.
- Once you call your local CFC or they receive your referral, you will be assigned a service coordinator who will meet with you to talk about your concerns for your child.
- After the intake meeting with the service coordinator, the team will complete an evaluation and assessment of your child's development with your consent.
- All children who are deaf/hard of hearing are eligible for Early Intervention services from birth to age three, regardless of degree or type of loss. You will, however, still need to complete the assessment to help the team better understand the individual needs of your child.
- After determining eligibility, the EI team (which includes the parents) will determine which services are needed for each individual child and how often as well as which professional will coach the family in



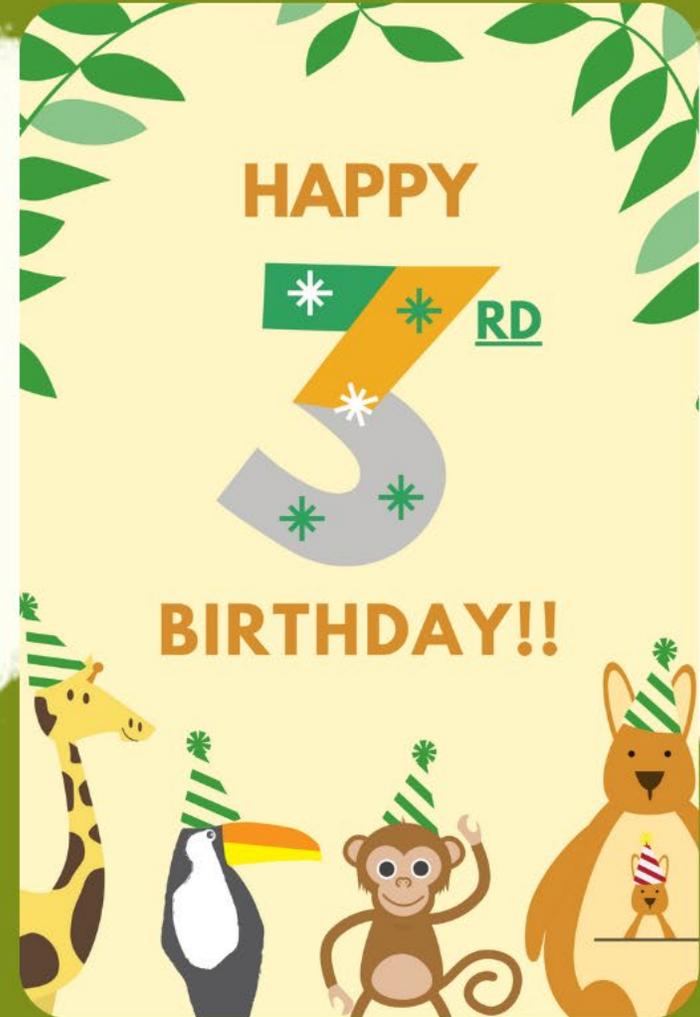


GBYS helped our family navigate a path when we were new to the terrain and didn't have a skill set built up yet. It was such an incredibly helpful resource and support that got us on our way. GBYS holds a special place in our hearts and in our family story.



We are not a One and Done

Early support does not mean that they are set for their entire parenting journey.



FEEDBACK from the GBYS Team

- Supporting through COVID
- More than mom
- Comfort levels with technology
- Earlier Access to support.



CONNECTING WITHIN THEIR REGION

- Frequent request
- Connection & Cohesion
- Unbiased support
- Future "potential" guides
- 9 regions

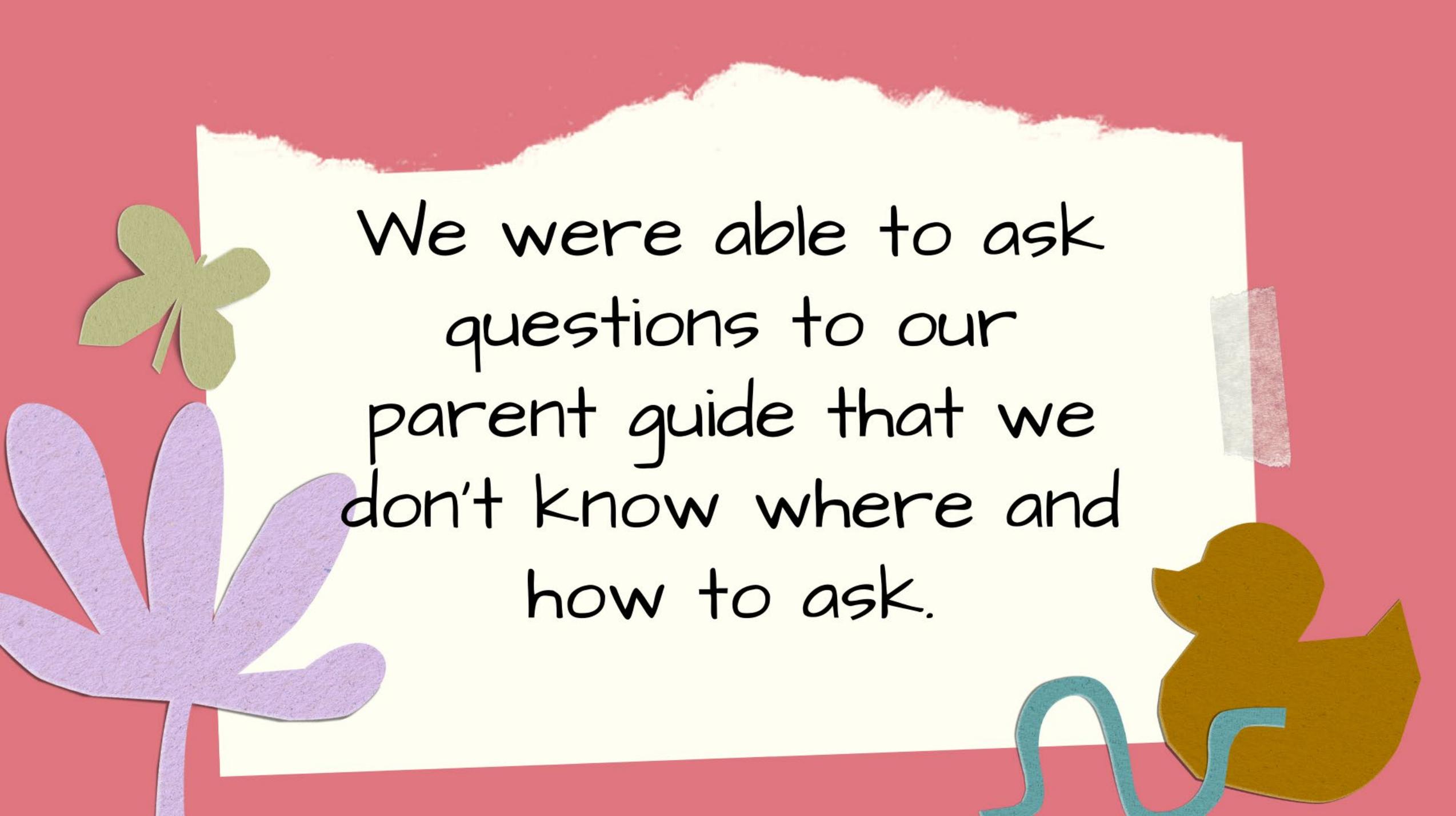




A step in the right direction

- Supporting LTF efforts
- EHDI Pals
- Renewed role

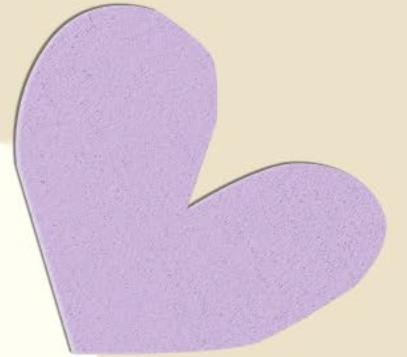
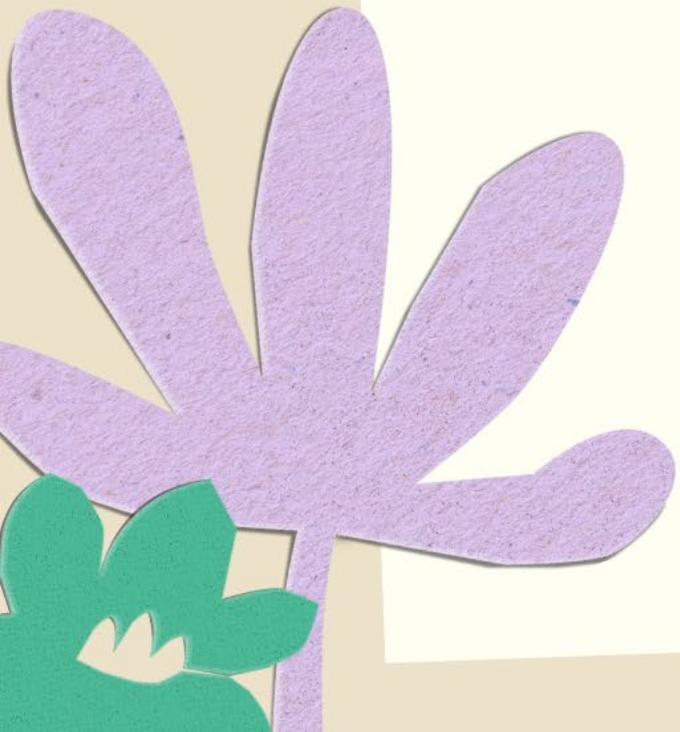




We were able to ask
questions to our
parent guide that we
don't know where and
how to ask.

Protocol Changes

- Service timeline
- Data reporting
- Enrollment process
- Send email to parent



Developing Future Leaders

- Potential Guides
 - When is the right time?
- Quality Improvement
 - Fresh perspectives

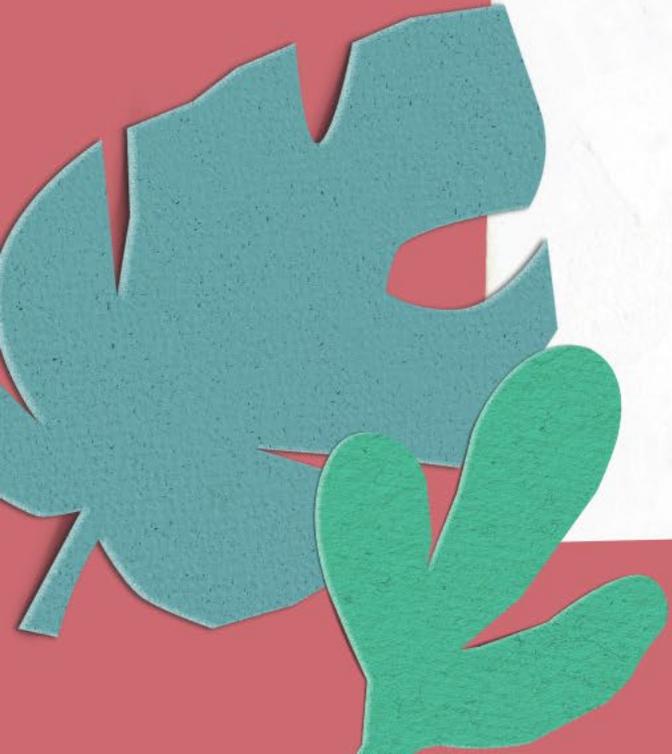




One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said... "I made a difference for that one."



Questions?





THANK YOU

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