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Addressing Hearing Loss in Young Children with Complex Needs

Vignette

Two-month-old Jennifer is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson. Because of her complex needs, the Simpson's concerns and priorities focus primarily on Jennifer's medical care and health. She is medically fragile and technology dependent; has a tracheostomy tube and a gastrostomy tube. In addition, Jennifer has recently been diagnosed with cortical visual impairment and a moderate bilateral hearing loss. The family has been referred to early intervention services and have indicated that they are now ready to develop the IFSP.

As the service coordinator you wonder how best to proceed:

1. What are the family's concerns, priorities and resources?
2. What recommendations have the family received?
3. What specialists/service providers should be involved in the development of the IFSP and on the intervention team?
4. How will Jennifer's vision and hearing needs be addressed?
5. What types of supports (formal, informal, peer) would this family find helpful?