

LEAD-K Michigan Assessment Data Letter to Parents

Language and literacy are the building blocks for learning, especially in the early years. For children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH), monitoring language and literacy development from birth through age five is key to making sure they're ready for kindergarten.

Why Do Assessments Matter?

Assessments help your child's educational team:

- Point out what your child is doing well.
- Spot any areas where your child may need additional support.
- Provide the right support at the right time.
- Identify language delays early.
- Support you in decisions about your child's communication and learning needs.

Assessments mean better planning and stronger outcomes for your child and your family.

What's Happening in Michigan?

The Michigan Department of Education is collecting data on language development of children who are DHH, birth through five. This is part of Michigan's Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) law, Public Act 256 of 2022, which helps ensure that all children who are DHH and their families get the early language support they need to become kindergarten ready.

The data collected will be used to create a yearly report comparing language and literacy development of children who are DHH with their peers. No personally identifiable information will be shared in this report.

Who Is Involved?

- **Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MI EHDI):** Supports early identification and follow-up.
- **Michigan Department of Education Resource for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (MDE RDHH):** Provides resources to families and school personnel to support early language and learning.
- **University of Colorado – Boulder Early Language Outcomes (ELO) Lab:** Collects and analyzes the data.

How Can You Help?

By participating in the collection of data, you're helping children across Michigan who are DHH get the best start possible.

How Can You Learn More?

For more information about language development and assessments for children who are DHH, visit the [LEAD-K Michigan parent resource website](https://michigan.gov/mde/resources/lead-k) (michigan.gov/mde/resources/lead-k).