### Interacting with Your Baby Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing

1. Get in the child’s line of vision and make eye contact before initiating interactions

2. Get the child’s attention either by waiting briefly until he looks or by gently attracting his attention (such as a soft touch on the shoulder or arm, lightly waving in the direction of his gaze)

3. Even when promoting listening and speaking skills, feel free to use visual means of communication including natural gestures, pointing, miming, and demonstration

4. Animate your facial expressions to reflect what vocal patterns might otherwise convey

5. Respond to the child’s vocalizations and laughter by changing your facial expression or by imitating her expression

6. Imitate the child’s facial expressions, vocalizations, and gestures; let the child respond, and then imitate the expression again
7. When the child wakes up in the morning or from a nap, let her know you are entering the room by turning on a soft light

8. Make eye contact with the child and lightly touch him before picking him up so he can anticipate the action

9. When changing a diaper, show the child the diaper to let him know what is going to happen next (similarly, for a bath, changing clothes, mealtime, etc)

10. Consider using a stroller that allows the child to be facing you so you can interact and connect visually

11. Look for toys that have both visual and auditory effects (e.g., flashing lights along with songs)

This information is available in Arabic, Portuguese, German, and Spanish from your provider. For additional resources, please visit our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program website at: [www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhhp](http://www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhhp)