



**4th International Conference on
Family-Centred Early Intervention for Children
Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
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Abstract

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Hearing loss is the most common birth deficit.Iran is a large country with 80 million population. Every day twenty deaf babies are born in Iran.Studies has shown that Family-Centered Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (FCEI) is the key point for achievement of age-appropriate speech perception and language development in hearing-impaired children.

In developing countries,like Iran , the detection of hearing loss is usually late until speech and language delays or unusual behaviour occurs.Newborn hearing screening (NHS) was introduced in Iran, 16 years ago.According to recent national studies,we have now almost 80% NHS coverage. Despite this progress, provision of the highest quality EI for infants/children who are D/HH and their families remains an urgent priority.

FCEI conferences in Austria and then in Africa(2017) were important events which raised the world wide awareness regarding early intervention programs.In recent years FCEI awareness in Iran has been improved due to many activities such as : writing letters of endorsement and sending it to appropriate policy makers in the country,share the 10 Principles document with parents,colleagues and leaders in the field, stablishing a “deaf & hard of hearing research center“ and holding a series of national FCEI conferences in the country .

Although awareness has been raised by recent reports and by the first international conference on FCEI in Iran, progress has to become faster. Yet there is a long way to go .Now It is time to support and develop FCEI services in our country.