

More than 90% of children with a hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

### You are not alone



Parents have lots of different feelings when they find out their child has a hearing loss. There are so many questions about what to expect and what to do next. Remember that parenting is always a journey taken one step at a time. You already know how to love, cuddle and comfort your child. What will be new for you is learning about hearing loss.

There are lots of people and organizations ready to help:

- Your Child's Doctor
- An Audiologist
- Schools
- Parent Groups
- State Programs

One of the most amazing things your child will learn in his or her lifetime is language. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate in many ways, but just like hearing children, it is best if they start learning as soon as possible.

Children who get help before six months of age can often learn language at the same pace as hearing children. They can do better typically in school and become whatever they want when they grow up. Your child's success depends on getting timely care from family members and professionals.

As a parent, you do not want your child to miss out on anything! Right now is your time to start. Learn more about communication and how to get the best help for your child.

## More Statewide Resources

**Illinois Hands & Voices/Guide By Your Side (GBYS)** (866) 655-4588 [www.ilhandsandvoices.org/GBYS](http://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/GBYS) in partnership with **Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program** – GBYS matches families with trained Parent Guides who also have children with a hearing loss. The Parent Guides provide unbiased emotional support and resources. GBYS is a program of Illinois Hands & Voices, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families that have children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing without a bias toward communication modes or methodologies.

**Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC)** (217) 557-4495 [www.idhhc.state.il.us](http://www.idhhc.state.il.us) – IDHHC works to advance the interests of all Illinois citizens with a hearing loss by advocating for systemic improvements, promoting cooperation and coordination among entities serving people who are deaf and hard of hearing and disseminating information to eliminate negative stereotypes surrounding hearing loss.

**Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC)** (847) 559-0110 [www.isrc.us/](http://www.isrc.us/) – ISRC provides training, technical assistance and resources for parents and educators of students who have a hearing loss and behavioral/emotional challenges.



### Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

[illinoissoundbeginnings.org](http://illinoissoundbeginnings.org)



## National Resources

Family-friendly websites where you can learn more about hearing loss and what you can do:

- [www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)
- [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/)
- [www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing)
- [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)
- [www.communicatewithyourchild.org](http://www.communicatewithyourchild.org)
- [www.raisingandeducatingdeafchildren.org](http://www.raisingandeducatingdeafchildren.org)

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# Here to Help



## Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

[illinoisoundbeginnings.org](http://illinoisoundbeginnings.org)

### Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program Coordinators:

#### Illinois Department of Public Health

1-217-782-4733

[dph.newbornhearing@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.newbornhearing@illinois.gov)

#### UIC - Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)

(800) 322-3722 [dsccl.uic.edu](http://dsccl.uic.edu)

[ilsound@uic.edu](mailto:ilsound@uic.edu)

DSCC can help families arrange, coordinate and pay for their child's specialized medical treatment when the child has an eligible medical condition and certain financial criteria are met.

#### Illinois Early Intervention (EI)

(217) 782-1981

[www.dhs.state.il.us/ei](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/ei)

EI's mission is to assure that families who have children, birth to three, with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays receive resources and support that assist them in maximizing their child's development, while respecting the diversity of families and communities.

# In the Next 3 Months

Your child has a confirmed hearing loss. A copy of these results will be sent to your child's doctor and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

### Test Results

Left Ear		Right Ear
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Hearing Loss	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mild	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderately Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Profound	<input type="checkbox"/>

### The next steps are:

- Enroll in Early Intervention (EI). Contact EI for your local Child & Family Connections (CFC) office. **1-217-782-1981**
- Enroll with Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC). Contact DSCC for your regional office. **1-800-322-3722**
- Receive an evaluation by an ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) specialist.
- Contact Guide By Your Side for family support. **1-866-655-4588**
- Call to receive the free "Children and Hearing Loss" notebook from CHOICES for Parents. **1-866-733-8729**
- Discuss the use of personal amplification options with a pediatric audiologist with experience in working with infants and toddlers.
- Learn more about communication. [www.communicationwithyourchild.org](http://www.communicationwithyourchild.org)

# Within the Next 3 Months After Diagnosis

- Begin Intervention\* services with providers that have experience serving children who have a hearing loss.

*\*Children who participate in early intervention prior to six months of age can have age appropriate skills by kindergarten.*

- Regular visits with your Audiologist and medical providers.

### Evaluations to discuss with your child's physician (Medical Home):

- Ophthalmologist (eye specialist)
- Genetic specialist
- Other medical specialists (for example: heart, development, kidney, etc.)



To locate a pediatric audiologist in your area log onto:

[www.ehdi-pals.org](http://www.ehdi-pals.org)