



Illinois Guide By Your Side (GBYS)
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Illinois E.A.R.S

E.A.R.S = Events And Resources Statewide

Rolling With the Punches as a K-2 DHH Teacher

I am a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. I have been for over 21 years. I absolutely love my job and can't imagine having chosen a different profession.

I teach in a self-contained classroom of kindergarten, first, and second grade students. All of my students have a delay in language due to hearing loss as well as a multitude of other factors.

Like so many teachers across the country, I teach students who come from a variety of backgrounds. Many families speak a 2nd language. Many have financial challenges. Many of my students have 1 or more siblings. Some have additional disabilities that may or may not yet be diagnosed.

It has always been a challenge finding ways to meet the needs of each and every individual student. I find myself constantly thinking about the daily lessons and whether or not I have done enough. I worry about how I can improve, how I can move them along so I can close the gap of delay faster, and/or how I can capture a particularly challenging student's attention, etc. This has been my daily life while teaching in a school setting.

If you ask most teachers, they will tell you that teaching is not the type of job you leave at your desk for the next day. It never has been and never will be. Many of us call our students "our kids" and often are accidentally called "mom" at least once a week. On a daily basis, I am sure that many teachers will tell you that they go from being teacher to "parent", "friend", "nurse", "counselor", and "coach" – just to name a few hats we wear.

Now that we have been home and away from our classrooms for over a month, we have had to adapt and roll with the punches once again. We have needed to come up with new ways to meet the needs of our students. While we may all have very different approaches, we are all trying our best.

Some of the most frustrating parts of teaching from home are related to internet issues. While our school is able to provide tablets or laptops to those who request them, the electronics don't help those families

without internet access. Some parents are so completely overwhelmed and are uneducated in how to set up equipment. While I have provided paper packets of review work for these families, it breaks my heart that those students are unable to continue to build

(Continued on page 21)



This newsletter was produced by Illinois Hands & Voices,
Guide By Your Side in collaboration with:



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parent support through one of our GBYS Parent Guides, help them navigate the services and providers available to them and also meet the goal that was set by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) for EHDIP programs to enroll newly diagnosed families in parent to parent support no later than 6 months of age. We are so excited to help families connect even earlier and that we are reaching even more families. Most importantly we are providing them all with unbiased support from another parent who understands the questions, needs and concerns of raising a child that is deaf or hard of hearing. It may take longer than you hope but, never give up on those rainbows & unicorn dreams!



February 28–March 2, 2021
Duke Energy Convention Center
ehdipmeeting.org



Guide By Your Side is the result of a collaborative effort between the following: IL Hands & Voices and the IL Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDIP).

Illinois Guide By Your Side presents

“Teletherapy Tips from the Trenches Webinar”

During this webinar we will have a parent and a provider sharing tips from their personal experiences of receiving and delivering therapy services to children under 3 years old. Join us to learn more on how you can maximize your teletherapy experiences for your child. After completing the registration link you will receive the zoom link and a reminder for the webinar event

Register Here:

<https://forms.gle/CcYfGWkRRHsFLIUGf9>

August
8/26



8pm
CST

This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant # H61MC04498: “Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention,” in the amount of \$235,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Communication accommodations available upon request. Interpreter requests are needed two weeks before the date of the event. Requests after this time are not guaranteed.

Guide By Your Side is the result of a collaborative effort between the following: IL Hands & Voices and the IL Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI).

Join Guide By Your Side Illinois On A **WILD GOOSE CHASE** A Virtual Scavenger Hunt At Home

Friday September 25, 2020 @ 7pm

Follow this link to register <https://forms.gle/TnMZVUrSSELa9T1Q8>



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Rainbows & Unicorns

Did you ever have a hope or dream that seemed so far fetched that it seemed as if it was really from the land of rainbows and unicorns? Over 10 years ago when we started IL Guide By Your Side (GBYS) our goal was to provide parent to parent support for families with children who were deaf and hard of hearing. We really didn't have the funding that we needed to support the program, but we believed that if we would build it, it would all fall in to place. How lucky were we that right before we officially kicked off the program the stars aligned and we were written into a contract that shared funding from a grant that our Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) program received! Over the years we continued to build the program and serve families but there was another rainbows & unicorns dream that we couldn't quite make happen — until this past spring. Till then, our GBYS program was an opt-in program, meaning that families would have to find us through providers, word of mouth or their own search and request to work with one of our Parent Guides. In March of this year, we signed a business agreement with our Public Health EHDI program allowing us to partner with them to provide parent to parent support to families with a child who was recently diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing. This agreement allows us to follow up with families and connect them with parent to



Carrie, Andrea and Ginger share their excitement for the new agreement!

(Continued on page 2)

Usborne Book Fundraiser



We're having a Usborne book sale fundraiser. Your kids who are deaf and hard of hearing need to read or be read to, it will enhance their language and learning. What better way to get books for your child? Shop from the comfort of your living room. You'll obtain books they'll love to read while helping us to continue our unbiased

PREVIEW DAYS

Now—September 30

Use this link to preview:

<https://y8055.myubam.com/1720891>

SALE DAYS

October 1—October 14



**HANDS &
VOICES™**
ILLINOIS

Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. We are able to provide unbiased support in IL by receiving donations and through our fundraising efforts. Please consider purchasing books during the sale days. Don't have a need for children's books? Donate directly to us at:

<https://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/fundraising-how-can-you-help>

FAMILY TIME ENJOY

Most families are still finding their new sense of “normal” during this COVID time. Each day is filled with balancing family, work, chores and activities. As we begin to return to work and our kids return to daycare and activities, we still need to remember to take time as a family. Below is a fun BINGO style game that you can play with your family over the next month or you can share with your friends group and all of you can play it for a month to see who earns their ENJOY by a set date. The purpose is to help families relax and enjoy activities that they may not otherwise make time for. Feel free to adapt it to the needs of your family, but always remember to ENJOY these days with your children. When you have completed all of the activities, you can all yell out how much you ENJOY each other!!!!

E	N	J	O	Y
Take a walk for 10 minutes	Sit down and eat together	Turn off technology for 30 minutes	10 deep breaths	Pajama day
Play a board/card game	Facetime/Zoom with a family member or friend	Give a hug (or air hug)	Draw/Color	Bake a treat
Build a blanket fort	5 minute conversation with no distractions	Create a 2 minute family video	Movie night	Virtual field trip
Make a meal together	Do a puzzle	Organize something	Dance party	Go on a scavenger hunt
Write a thank you note to someone	Family Yoga	Make a craft/art project	Listen to music/sing	Watch a classic movie

Created by Ramona Martin, IL Guide By Your Side Parent Guide

TELETHERAPY DURING A PANDEMIC

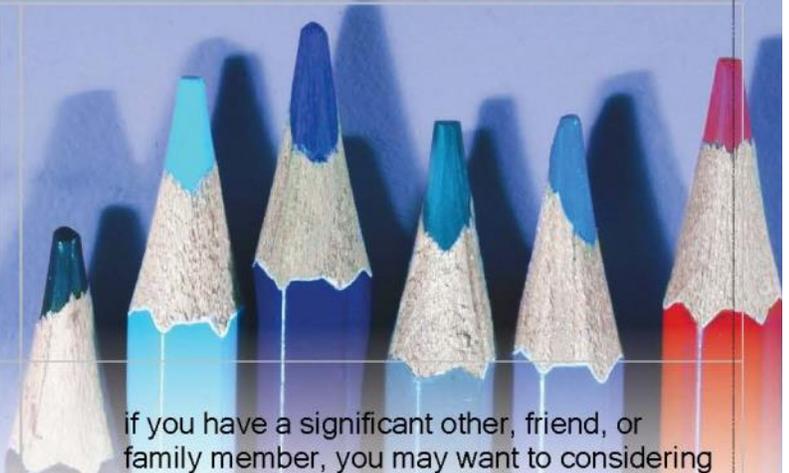
EARLY INTERVENTION

During this pandemic, Early intervention services have not been meeting in person and will probably continue to not be offered in the home. How does this affect the effectiveness of the therapies? How is this manageable with infants and toddlers? How can you get the most out of your teletherapy sessions?

TIPS FOR TELETHERAPY WITH INFANTS

How can an infant have a successful teletherapy session? I will share some tips I have found beneficial while participating in teletherapy sessions with my infant:

1. Pick a good time: Try to work with your therapists when scheduling sessions that work best for your infant. Try avoiding naptimes, mealtimes, or other inconvenient times for your little one.
2. Make sessions short: I have found that 30-minute sessions are more productive with my infant's attention span. Since your therapist is likely not traveling, they may have more time to split one-hour sessions in half and schedule two separate teletherapy sessions.
3. Have both parents join: The one positive of teletherapy has been that my husband has been able to join, even when he is at work. This helps so I don't have to repeat information to him or he can remember what the therapist had said when I have forgotten. It has also made him feel more involved, which has made me feel better knowing he is participating and cares. So,



if you have a significant other, friend, or family member, you may want to considering adding them to your Zoom sessions.

4. Create a Google share doc: Give all your therapists and yourself a place to drop information. This is very helpful so that everyone is on the same page, and this can also be useful when we return back to in person therapy as well. Another advantage is that you can go back to the materials and refresh your memory on what your infant needs to work on.
5. Phone vs Computer: Obviously, what works for me, may not work for everyone, but I have found that using Zoom on my phone has deterred my little one from pressing buttons and being attracted to my laptop. I think that my infant is used to me holding my phone, so it is not as distracting to him. When I use my phone, I am more mobile and I am able to chase my little one around while I try to engage him in activities during the sessions.

GIVE YOURSELF GRACE

This is a hard time for almost everyone in the State, USA, and even the world. Try to stay positive even though services may not look like pictured. Try to give you and your little one grace as you try to balance your daily life during this time.

While we are unsure when in person and home therapy sessions will be allowed again, it is important to make the most of your sessions until things are back to normal.



A Message from Hands & Voices

How do we even begin to frame the sentences that reflect the horror and injustice in the world today as we watched the knee of the murderer on George Floyd's neck as he lay dying?

How do we use the right words so that we all as a society stop talking about just the words that are right or wrong and get to changing our collective souls to end racism, discrimination and oppression?

For us at Hands & Voices, you may think our silence to date has meant something, like an unwillingness to speak or act. No, our discourse within our leadership has been raw, messy, defensive, open, complicated, and still somehow in solidarity. We are committed to words *and* actions. Black lives matter. This is only the beginning of our hands and voices in this matter.... We are Hands & Voices.



Bringing Your Vacation Home

This summer doesn't look like any of us expected. Sports are different; water parks are closed; vacations are getting cancelled. However, that doesn't mean you have to give up on having fun this summer.

This year, my family decided to have a staycation weekend where we hit *more* places than we ever could have on our typical summer trip. Here are some fully-at-home staycation ideas to liven up your pandemic:

- **Camping:** Pitch a tent in the backyard (or even the living room), sit around the campfire, go for a hike, and make some s'mores.
- **New York:** Have bagels for breakfast, look up a recipe for New York-style pizza crust or cheesecake (or both!), and see a Broadway show (we streamed *Hamilton* on Disney+, or you can search up some other fun shows online).
- **Disney:** Ride the rides virtually, watch a lights parade, and Pinterest some recipes from the around the World Showcase. You can even get extra fancy and schedule a video call with a princess or character.



Sure, it's not the same as we are used to, but your family is sure to make lasting memories with these creative little "trips."

Written by Amy Keslinke, IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Parent Guide

8 Fun Things To Do That Break Up The Day and Don't Break The Bank!

1. **Go on a nature scavenger hunt.** Look for different items - leaves, sticks, rocks, flowers, grass, acorns, pine cones etc. and put them in a bag. Bring them home and fill a tub with water and see which items sink or float. Great activity for building vocabulary, listening skills, and introducing science concepts.

2. **Take a hike.**

- Checkout "Bear Hunt" for a story themed hike <https://www.northbrook.info/find/bear-hunt>
- Old School Forest Preserve has lots of trails that are fun and wooded to avoid the hot heat.
- Wahoo Woods. A playful adventure escape for kids.

3. **Enjoy a game of mini golf.**



Example of a sensory path

4. **Create a backyard water park or sensory path.** To make a water park setup water activities - kiddie pool, sprinkler, water table, water balloons and let your child enjoy dumping water into different cups, bowls, etc. Give them a paint brush to paint your patio with water. To make a sensory path fill up different plastic bins with items like (hot water, cold water, shaving cream, sand, pebbles, etc.) and have them walk through the path. <https://www.facebook.com/messylittlemonster/videos/vb.258833957607720/719972662095756/?type=2&theater>

5. **Try a virtual, kids yoga class.** Hop Along Yogi Kids Yoga offers free/pay-what-you-can yoga classes for kids every Saturday morning at 9am. Classes are geared toward kids ages 2-6 but all are welcome. Visit www.hopalongyogi.com to signup.

6. **Build a boat.** Glue together 10 popsicle sticks to make a boat. Can you design one that floats for at least 10 seconds? Build a boat out of tin foil and have a contest to see whose boat can hold the most pennies. <https://www.kids-fun-science.com/easy-science-experiment.html>

7. **Make your own sidewalk chalk paint.** This 2 ingredient recipe is easy for kids to help mix, but be careful with the food coloring! <https://ourbestbites.com/easy-diy-sidewalk-chalk-paint/>

8. **Turn your kitchen into a restaurant.** Instead of going out to dinner, create a meal for your kids complete with appetizer, main course and dessert. Have them draw, color, create their own dinner menu to match what you're serving. <https://www.iheartradio.ca/100-3-the-bear/trending/watch-parents-create-a-restaurant-experience-at-home-for-kids-1.11736475>

Written by Laura Kowalski, IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Parent Guide

CHS

Need an ASL Interpreter?
Chicago Hearing Society can help!

CONTACT US!
Phone: 773.248.9121 ext. 312
Fax: 773.442.0619
VP: 773.598.8927
Email: CHSInterp@anixter.org
Web: www.ChicagoHearingSociety.org

WHY CHS?
Chicago Hearing Society helps organizations locate and employ qualified sign language interpreters.

- All our over 300 contract interpreters are nationally certified and/or licensed by the State
- We provide both on-site and remote (VRI) interpreting services, including a dedicated VRI station within our offices
- We have interpreters on our team who specialize in medical, legal, performance, educational, and tactile/proprioceptive interpreting
- We work with Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI) as well as Deaf Interpreters (DI)
- We provide mentorship opportunities for new interpreters just entering the field through our Mary Mulcrone Mentorship Program
- We are a Certification Maintenance Program Sponsor, providing several opportunities throughout the year for interpreters to earn their required CEUs
- Department Manager is a veteran interpreter of over 30 years, who understands the many different perspectives of being a top interpreter referral agency

Providing a link between Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals who use sign language and hearing individuals who do not know sign language.

Sign language interpreter Michael Albert assists Gov. J.B. Pritzker during his daily briefing about the coronavirus pandemic on March 22, 2020. (Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune)

Boredom Busters

Has Covid got you down?

Feeling like there is nothing to do and nowhere to go?

Here are a few ideas to change it up and have some fun with the family!

⇒ **Go on a weekly food tour...**

Pick a family favorite- ice cream, doughnuts, pizza, etc and visit a new spot each week to taste test their goods. Throw in some old favorites and add in some new ones. Keep track of everyone's ratings and crown your favorite at the end of your tour. This is also a great way to incorporate language skills for your little ones. You can talk about the flavor (sweet, sour, salty) or the texture (creamy, powdery, gooey). There are so many opportunities to sprinkle in important skills with the fun!



⇒ **Forts!**

Forts with blankets and couch cushions are fun, but add in some cardboard boxes for an added bonus and even more hours of enjoyment. Head to your local U-Haul or other box store to pick up a couple of wardrobe boxes. These boxes are HUGE and can be used as tunnels or open them up to make walls in your fort. Suddenly your little ones are transformed into kings and queens of a castle, pirates sailing a ship, or maybe even setting up a playhouse with cut out windows and a door. The possibilities are endless!



⇒ **Go outside!**

This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the weather that won't be here forever. Create an obstacle course in your yard using any of the equipment you have laying around- hula hoops, plastic cones, scooters. For example you can weave through the cones on a scooter, jump from hula hoop to hula hoop, make a basket (in a hoop or into a small bucket), crab walk to the next obstacle, and the list goes on. Time each family member to see who can complete it the fastest. Scavenger hunts are another fun outdoor activity. Divide up in teams or go all together to try to cross everything off the list. There are tons of great scavenger hunts online.

Written by Christen Nolfi, IL Hands & Voices Board Member and
Guide By Your Side Parent Guide

YOU'RE INVITED!



Together We Reach Further – School Resource

When: August 12, 2020

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Registration:

- Webinar session times: 12:00PM – 1:00PM CDT - https://cochlearevents.cvent.com/PDH1_August122020_12-1PM
- Webinar session time: 4:00PM – 5:00PM CDT - https://cochlearevents.cvent.com/PDH1_August122020_4-5PM

If you have difficulty registering contact:

Sara Chinnock schinnock@cochlear.com or 314-324-8690

www.Cochlear.com/US

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KUN2047032 03.20

Hear now. And always.



Unilateral Hearing Loss: Tips for Parents

Infants with unilateral hearing loss are being identified within the first few months of life subsequent to the newborn hearing screening test before hospital discharge. Approximately 2 babies in every 1000 births have a unilateral hearing loss. There are many strategies parents can use to enhance their child's listening skills. There are also specific changes that can be made to the home environment to make listening easier for your child.

"Why does a unilateral hearing loss make it more difficult for my child to hear?"

- **Hearing in noise:** The important sound, often the speech of the caregiver, is harder to hear and not as clear.
- **Finding or localizing a sound:** For most children, it is difficult to find a sound when you don't hear the same way in each ear
- **Language development:** Children say what they hear. If a child doesn't hear speech clearly, it may be more difficult for the child to develop clear speech.

(Continued on page 10)

Attending to auditory information: Soft voices and deep voices may be more difficult for a child to understand.

What strategies can I use at home to make listening easier for my child?



- Move away from noises when you want your child to listen to you.
- Position your baby so that the normally hearing ear is directed toward the sound you want the child to hear.
- When you want your child to hear you, notice if there are other sounds around you. Try to make the environment quieter so that your child will hear you better.
- When you are talking to your baby, minimize the distance between you. Come even closer in a noisy environment.

How can I speak to my baby to make my words clearer?

- Make your speech a little louder by getting closer to your baby.
- Provide visual clues when you speak or make a sound by letting your baby see your lips. Be sure there is good lighting, and add gestures.
- Get your child's attention and *then* start to talk.
- Provide occasional pauses in what you say to allow more time for your baby to understand the message.
- Place more emphasis on key words in a phrase.



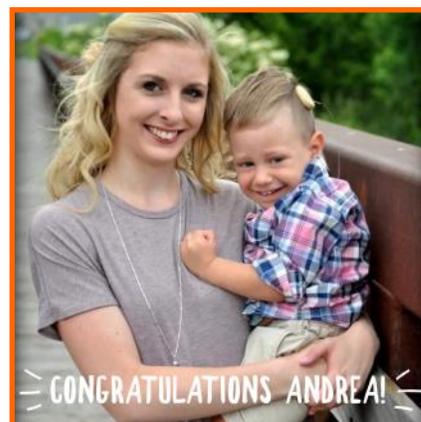
Parents can carefully observe their child and note any warning signs that hearing loss is affecting development. Consider these tips:



1. If your child has an ear infection, go to your doctor right away. An ear infection may make it harder to hear in the good ear.
2. Have your child's hearing tested on a regular basis as recommended by your audiologist.
3. Have an assessment of speech, communication, language and functional hearing every 6 months to check your child's development in these areas.
4. Obtain help from an early interventionist who can teach your family specific techniques to help your baby hear.
5. Learn some strategies to develop good listening skills in your child (called auditory training)

**This article is brought to you by the Colorado Home Intervention Program (CHIP). You can contact CHIP through their website www.csdb.org.*

Congratulations to IL Guide By Your Side Parent Guide, Andrea S, in promoting to LEAD guide within our parent to parent support program. Andrea has been with our program since 2018 and is also the Vice President on our IL Hands & Voices Board.



IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side
"What works for your child is what makes the choice right"

GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

Providing unbiased emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

To receive more information or to request a Parent Guide:

Call/Text: 224-343-1873

Fax: 866-695-3880

E-mail: ilhvgbys@gmail.com

WEB: www.ilhandsandvoices.org



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™
ILLINOIS

We Provide:

- > Unbiased support
- > Firsthand personal experience
- > Compassion
- > Resources
- > Notice of upcoming events
- > Someone to listen and talk to
- > Opportunities to meet other families

For Whom?

- > Illinois families who have a child that is deaf or hard of hearing or hearing loss is suspected.

Cost:

- > Free!

Please fill in the information below and fax, text or email to us:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birthdate: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

_____ I would like to be matched with a Parent Guide

_____ I would like more information about IL Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side and resources

Please fax to 866-695-3880 or email to ilhvgbys@gmail.com



HANDS & VOICES™
ILLINOIS

This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant # H61MC04498: "Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention," in the amount of \$250,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government. Cb1.20



AT THE FOREFRONT OF **KIDS** MEDICINE®

UChicago Medicine

Comer Children's

Back to School Basics: Supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child Returning to the Classroom

Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm CST for a live webinar series via Zoom Webinars.

- **August 5th, 2020:** “IDEA and Advocacy: Protecting the Parent School Relationship” [Click here to register](#)
- **August 12th, 2020:** “It Takes a Village!: Collaborating with multiple care teams to provide best practice services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children” [Click here to register.](#)
- **August 19th, 2020:** “Navigating the Educational Setting During the COVID-19 Pandemic” [Click here to register.](#)
- **August 26th, 2020:** “La clave para el éxito académico está en la comunicación” *(This presentation will be presented in Spanish)* [Click here to register.](#)
- **September 2nd, 2020:** “Bringing Listening, Language, and Learning Home from School for Busy Families” [Click here to register.](#)

Attend a webinar and your name will be entered into a drawing to win an Amazon Gift Card! Your name will be entered into the drawing for each webinar that you attend. The winner will be announced following the conclusion of the live webinar series!

Please contact us at Pediatric.HearingLoss@uchospitals.edu or (773) 702-8182

All presentations will be captioned. Presentations will be presented in English unless otherwise indicated. Spanish translation of each PowerPoint presentation will be available.

8

Reasons to say YES to Early Intervention for your child who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH)

...What are you waiting for?



1. *Early Intervention is worth the time

Early Intervention (EI) will help you incorporate language development and needed supports for your child into your daily routines. Research shows early involvement can help your child avoid language delays. Starting EI now will help you and your child on the path to future success.



2. We are in this together

Feeling overwhelmed or isolated? Professionals and other parents of D/HH kids can share this journey with you and support you. A whole community is ready to embrace you. Hearing other families' experiences can help you think ahead through your own journey.



3. Early Involvement will help your other family members

As you understand your own child's needs through EI, your child's siblings, extended family, friends and neighbors can learn to better communicate with and include your child. If your circle of support is small, EI helps build a larger circle to surround your family.



4. There is more to this than just 'google it'

With a seemingly endless world of resources, articles, videos, online support, podcasts, and more, where is the wisdom? A personal connection to EI providers can help you process the information available at your fingertips with what you know and can try with your own child.

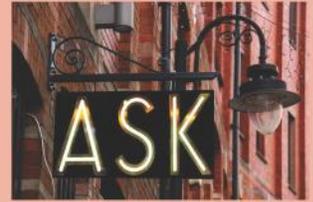


5. Facing your fears will bring freedom

You may feel like you don't know anything about what being D/HH might mean for your child. You may not see your family as part of this world. A "new normal" can be a life of joy, and better than imagined.

6. You will ask better questions

You don't know what you don't know. Having support through EI helps you learn important questions to ask and how to find answers in what works for your child. You will be able to answer the questions most pressing to your child's needs.



7. You can do this in the context of your own family's values

You can adapt services to be in line with your family's values and goals for your child's future, provided in your language and cultural context. A system is in place to ensure that EI providers and programs are a match to your family and child's needs.



8. You will gain confidence that you are your child's best advocate

You will become your child's best advocate in the school years by learning about deafness, language and development through EI. Your advocacy will light the path for your child's success.



*Early Intervention is the term used to describe the services and supports that are available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.



For more information and to get connected to Early Intervention, contact www.hardofhearing.org, your state EHDH program, your state or territory's Part C Coordinator or a local Early Intervention provider.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 5U49MC001684-01-00 for Family Leadership in Language and Learning for 21,000,00. This information on content and user reviews are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, or endorsed, any organizations be it HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

CHS

For 104 years, CHS has served the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community with a wide variety of services.

- Interpreter Referral Services
- VRI & Captioning
- Youth Program
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Victim Assistance Program
- Hearing Health Clinic
- Social Services and Advocacy
- Parent Support
- Free Amplified Phone Demonstrations
- ARMED Mentoring Program
- Deaf Mentor Program
- Tax Program
- DeafBlind Program
- Sign Language Classes

Interpreter services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
CHSInterp@Anixter.org

www.ChicagoHearingSociety.org
1444 W. Willow St., Chicago, IL 60642
Voice: 773.248.9121 VP: 773.904.0154
Fax: 773.409.1544



Early Intervention

Child's Voice is a listening and spoken language program for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families.

Teletherapy Services

What is teletherapy?

- Speech and aural rehabilitation therapies provided through an internet connection using a smart phone, tablet or computer with a camera.
- Therapy sessions where parents and caregivers play an active role and learn how to develop their child's communication skills through daily routines and resources found in their homes.



Who provides the services?

Speech-language pathologists and developmental therapists - hearing specialists who are EI credentialed providers in the state of Illinois.

Who is teletherapy for?

- Families who have a baby or toddler with hearing loss and want their child to learn to listen and talk.
- Families who do not have access to an early intervention provider who specializes in listening and spoken language.

These services are free.

At Child's Voice, a child with hearing loss learns to listen and to speak.



You'll be hearing from us!

1846 W Belmont Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773-516-5720
info@childsvoice.org

180 Hansen Court
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630-595-8200
info@childsvoice.org

www.childsvoice.org



What is CHOICES for Parents?

CHOICES for Parents is a statewide coalition of parents and professionals connecting children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing and their families with resources, advocacy, information, services, and support.

We also offer FREE resources: ASL classes in spoken Spanish and English, READ Kits, Children & Hearing Loss Resource Notebook and more!
Contact us today!

Connecting families of children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing to resources, advocacy, information, services, and support statewide.

What can we do for families?

CHOICES for Parents can refer families to resources and services such as:

- Developmental therapy
- Deaf mentors
- Audiological services
- Sign language classes in English and Spanish
- Assistive technology
- Home-based support
- Psychological/counseling services
- Educational options
- Events in the Deaf Community
- Events in the Latino Deaf Community
- Cued Speech classes
- Religious services
- Individual and group parent support
- Child and Family Connections offices
- Medical services
- Speech therapy
- Auditory Verbal/Oral therapy
- Listening and Spoken Language support
- Insurance/public aid
- Division of Specialized Care for Children
- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants/implantable devices

Contact Us!

P.O. Box 646, Highland Park, IL 60035
312.523.6400 (call/text) or 866.733.8729
Fax: 312.277.0997
info@choicesforparents.org
www.choicesforparents.org

ISRC Parent University Provides Free Modules

The Illinois Service Resource Center offers a variety of free training modules for parents of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired. These modules include a video to watch or a document to review, along with a brief quiz.

Available topics include Just for Dads, Siblings of Children with Hearing Loss, Walking the Walk, Self-Advocacy 101, Acronyms and State Resources, Transition Planning, Crafting the Best IEP for Your Child Who Is Blind or Visually Impaired, Cultivating Deaf Identities, Navigating Visual Impairments Through the Life Span, Cochlear Implant Myths and Facts, Audiologist Who Has Cochlear Implants, Children with Cochlear Implants Panel, Rewarding Positive Behavior at Home, and the ISRC Library Scavenger Hunt.

Parents who complete modules are eligible to earn incentives, which include a choice of books after completion of one module, choice of a game after completing two modules, choice of a DVD after completing three modules, and additional choices after completing four modules.

HEAR to LEARN



BUILDING SUCCESS ONE STEP AT A TIME
Hearing - Language - Literacy



<http://heartolearn.org>

This user friendly learning resource is for parents and professionals to support spoken language learning for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



This website includes:

- Video tutorials
- Downloadable intervention materials
- Current research
- Communities

The website will continue to offer new learning resources, materials, and research - visit often!





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LEARN

Why join IL Hands & Voices?

- *Free or discounted entry to our Family Fun events
- *Quarterly "Communicator" newspaper
- *NEW Closed Facebook group exclusively for IL H&V Members

<https://ilhandsandvoices.wordpress.com/membership/>

CONNECT

SHARE



SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

HOW WE HELP

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) partners with Illinois families and communities to help children and youth with special health-care needs connect to services and resources. We guide families through their child's journey with a medical condition and work with doctors, schools and community groups to create a seamless support system. We assess a child's medical, social, behavioral, educational and financial needs and develop a personalized plan of care. This process is called care coordination and is **FREE**, regardless of a family's income level.

Our care coordination is tailored to each family and focused on their specific goals. It can include:

- Accessing diagnostic testing
- Finding specialized medical care
- Helping families maximize their insurance and understand their coverage/benefits
- Communicating with doctors and specialists
- Attending school meetings and assisting with the IEP or 504 Plan process
- Coordinating transportation for appointments
- Applying for grants to fund therapies, equipment or other needs
- Linking families with local charities, programs and resources
- Facilitating equipment orders
- Assisting with the application for federal and state benefit programs, such as SSI, Illinois Link Card and WIC
- Connecting families for parent-to-parent support
- Preparing for the transition to adulthood

Financial Assistance Available - We can also help pay for eligible medical expenses, such as equipment, therapies, supplies and medical services, when families meet income guidelines.

OUR IMPACT

Our care coordination makes it possible for families to:

- Feel more confident and organized in the care of their child.
- Understand and stay at the center of decisions about their child's care.
- Develop a stronger partnership with their child's doctors and specialists.
- Express their worries and concerns and address them productively.
- Effectively navigate the maze of resources and insurance coverage/benefits.
- Support and achieve their child's educational and vocational goals.

See Other Side for More Information

WHO WE SERVE

DSCC serves Illinois families with children up to age 21 who have or are suspected of having an eligible medical condition. Eligible conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Blood Disorders
- Cardiovascular Impairments
- Craniofacial & External Body Impairments
- Eye Impairments
- Gastrointestinal Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Inborn Errors of Metabolism
- Nervous System Impairments
- Orthopedic Impairments
- Pulmonary Impairments
- Urogenital Impairments

We also serve families who care for children and youth who require in-home shift nursing through the Home Care Program. DSCC operates the Home Care Program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This program helps youth remain in their family home rather than a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Many eligible youth are also medically fragile and dependent on technology - such as on ventilators, tracheostomies and gastrostomy tubes - for their well-being.

Contact us at:
(800) 322-3722
dsccl.uic.edu



WHO WE ARE

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is a statewide program that serves children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families. Each state receives federal funds to improve the health of children and youth with special healthcare needs. DSCC has been the designated program for Illinois since 1937.

We have 11 regional offices throughout the state that help Illinois families in their local communities. Our staff includes social workers, nurses, speech pathologists, audiologists and other team members who are trained to partner with families to help them identify needs and connect them to the specialty care and resources they need for their child to reach their full potential.



"Any time I have a problem, I contact DSCC. If I can't figure it out, they help me figure out a solution, so I'm thankful I have somebody to turn to."

Experience why

acs

Is the alternative

Experience our Services

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
Remote CART Services
Realtime Captioning
Text Interpreting (TypeWell & C-Print)
Sign Language

Experience our Differences

Experience
Consistent Quality
Competitive Rates
Personalized Support
Client Respect
Employee Respect
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Alternative Communication Services, LLC

P.O. Box 278
Lombard, Illinois 60148
800-335-0911
info@acscaptions.com
www.acscaptions.com

It's Official, Our New Site Has Launched!

www.ilhandsandvoices.org



- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Illinois Families For Hands & Voices whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
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Do you or your child have something to share? A new adventure or an accomplishment? They can be a part of our next newsletter! Stories can be submitted to ilhvghys@gmail.com



Stay up to date by following Illinois Hands & Voices on FaceBook and Instagram





Parent Tip Sheet Cognitive Development

Cognitive development refers to how children think, explore and figure things out. There are a handful of areas where deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) kids seem to be at greater risk for difficulty or delay. However, there are many ways in which cognitive development in D/HH children is just like that in hearing children.

Before they're able to explore the world with their bodies, children are already exploring the world with their mind and their senses. Psychologists used to believe that the mind developed pretty much the same way regardless of a child's experiences, but we've since come to understand that both the child's environment and their own actions & experiences can contribute to fostering healthy cognitive development.

Researchers are actively trying to understand why these areas of development seem to be at risk in deaf or hard of hearing children. Two main explanations have been proposed. According to one view, development depends on experience with sound. According to another view, healthy cognitive development depends on successful acquisition of language, whether signed or spoken. Fortunately, both views agree that providing access to sound and access to language (whether signed or spoken) promotes cognitive development.



- ✓ Notice what captures your child's attention and attend to that, as well.
- ✓ Establish eye contact.
- ✓ Play hiding games like peek-a-boo.
- ✓ Watch how your child plays with objects to better understand how the child is understanding the world.
- ✓ Communicate about your child's play by offering words to describe what the child is doing and how items are categorized (e.g., "you are taking care of your stuffed animals- just like a vet!" Or "those are vehicles").
- ✓ Before your child can use words, use gestures that communicate, such as waving bye-bye, show me, give me, pointing.
- ✓ Play games that encourage your child to imitate what you are doing, such as building or feeding.
- ✓ Do things that are unexpected and surprising with your child.
- ✓ Ask your child about feelings and thoughts of other people, animals, or toys.
- ✓ Use mental-state language, e.g., "Then what happened?"



*Share these with your Early Intervention providers/parent to parent support providers who have experience with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and discuss ideas on how to implement these tips with your child. <https://handsandvoices.org/f3publications.html>
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(Continued from page 1)

on their knowledge they have worked so hard to achieve. The students that need the most help are the ones being left behind.

In addition to internet issues, I was surprised to learn that I first needed to teach my students specific vocabulary related to the computer. Students have always seemed so tech-savvy related to programs they play at home or have learned in technology class. It took us a week just to learn terms like "scroll up/down", "press the link", "open/close a new tab", "refresh your screen", "share your screen", "press mute", and "chat box" just to name a few. Not only did students get a vocabulary lesson, they also had to hone their skills in following directions.

Fortunately, most of my students are able to log on live with me once or twice daily in small groups for a reading lesson and math lesson. This schedule would not be possible if I did not have the help of my two SECAs (Special Education Assistants) and willingness of the parents to try to follow my lead as best as they can.

On Fridays, we have had a "Friday Free-for-All" where our whole class logs on and just talks to each other. They are so happy to see each other! One Friday we had a birthday party for a student. All of the students surprised her with a card they had made for her and we sang to her. I held a candle, she "blew it out" and then I blew it out on my end for her. See? Adapt and roll with the punches.

One of the best parts of teaching from home has been the opportunities I've had to get to know my students and their families on a more intimate level. I have been able to get a glimpse into their homes and they have seen into mine. They have seen my crazy dog in action and the family I often talk about. I have seen their pets and extended families in their daily environment as well. For that, I am grateful.

We are all living through a crazy, scary time. Whether we continue to teach and learn from home or in our school building, all we can do is be patient, adapt and continue to roll with the punches.

Written by: Alison Rollins, Illinois Hands & Voices Board of Directors

Guide By Your Side is the result of a collaborative effort between the following: IL Hands & Voices and the IL Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program.

Do you have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing age 36 months or younger?



You are eligible to get a **free** online class to learn American Sign Language!

To apply, visit www.infanthearing.org/signit

