
Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Family Programs & Services

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“WHAT WORKS FOR YOUR CHILD IS WHAT MAKES THE CHOICE RIGHT!”

Texas Hands & Voices

- Texas State Chapter of the international organization – Hands & Voices
- Texas Hands & Voices is a 501c3 non-profit organization



Guide By Your Side

- A program under the National Hands & Voices umbrella
- Texas GBYS Program is funded with 'family involvement' monies from ERCOD



Texas Hands & Voices...What Do We Do?

We offer support to families including:

- Parent to parent support
- Guide By Your Side Program
- ASTra Program
- Networking
- Resource sharing
- Website & Facebook pages
- Parent & Professional trainings/webinars
- HQ News (Communicator) for members



- eNewsletters and events updates
- Local social events and workshops
- Involvement in systems change
- Legislative updates and representation

Guide By Your Side Program

- Parent & family support program
- Provides information and support in an unbiased manner to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Offers Parent Guides, Spanish speaking Guides, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides
- Guides matched with families
- Services available birth – 21 years
- Provided free of charge



GBYS Guides

Parent Guides (including Spanish speaking Guides)

- Parents who have deaf or hard of hearing children themselves
- Trained to support other parents
- First-hand experience with this journey
- Empower parents to navigate their journey with confidence.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides

- Share their perspectives and experiences of growing up deaf or hard of hearing
- Share information about Deaf culture and the deaf community
- Help parents see that their child has no limits & can do whatever they desire

<http://www.txhandsandvoices.org/gbys/>

Why Families Need Support



- 95% of all children who are deaf or hard of hearing are born into hearing families (Mitchell & Karchmer 2004)
- 90% of these families have no background in deafness or connections to the deaf community (Center for Demographic Studies 1984)
- “The key to a successful integration of hearing loss into a family is the degree to which parents are able to integrate hearing loss into their lives” (D. Luterman, 2006)

Research Supports Parent-Peer Support

In a 2000 study done by Hintermaier, R, "Stress Indicators Decreased" by having the support of other parents.

- Parents reporting social networks with other parents of children who are deaf were associated with less isolation, greater acceptance of their child, and improved interactional responsiveness.



Parent to Parent Support: Why is it Important?

Research indicates that the single-most important factor in predicting successful outcomes of newly identified deaf/hh babies in early intervention is the active participation of their parents. (Yoshinaga-Itano, Coulter & Thomson, 2000)

Benefits of Parent involvement include higher reading scores, higher grades on homework, improved attitudes towards school, improved relationships between parents and teachers. (Donahoo, 2001)

The Value Of Perspective

“The Guide talked to us like hearing loss was normal. I want to be like that. I just knew after talking with the Guide that everything was going to be okay.”



Supported and informed families . . .

- are emotionally healthy
- are ready to face responsibilities
- have resources to make good decisions
- take ownership of decisions and outcomes
- are better partners with professionals in the process
- learn best by seeing other families in action
(Parent to parent modeling)





Family Support Examples

- Newly diagnosed infant
- “Growing Up” issues – new school, social issues, etc.
- Communication Choices
- IEP/IFSP help



Parents Are the Key!

- Limited parental involvement, or knowledge, is one of the biggest problems facing public schools (involvement for each family may look different, predetermined by many factors in their lives)
- Family participation in education is twice as predictive of student's academic success as family socioeconomic status
- Parents of high-achieving students set higher standards for their children's educational activities than parents of low-achieving students



Staying Informed: Parent and Team Meetings

- Learn more about developmental expectations
- Read progress reports from all members of the team
- Conduct pre-meetings – Talk about the tough stuff!
- Be willing to brainstorm – Think outside the box
- Know everyone's limits to have reasonable expectations
- Hold events to inform and train parents on process

Hands & Voices Educational Advocacy Book

<http://handsandvoices.org/resources/products.htm#astra>

Informed Team Meetings

Consider Social/Emotional and Self Advocacy Skills

- Amplification Management (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA)
- Resources/Technology
- Communication Strategies
- Personal/Interpersonal Skills



Support & Promote Parenting Skills

- Keep parents updated on Deaf Culture/Hearing Related issues
- Share apps and technology for home use (Tocomail, Screentime)
- Share resources for GED classes, college credit, family literacy
- Offer Family Support for nutrition
- Create Family Events!



Tools For Learning: Early Reading

- VL2 Storybook Apps

<http://vl2storybookapps.com/>

- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

<https://texasdeafed.org/professionals/classroom-tools/laura-numeroff-series>

- The Napping House

<https://texasdeafed.org/professionals/classroom-tools/the-napping-house>



More Tools For Learning...

Comprehensive Support Tools...Updated Regularly!

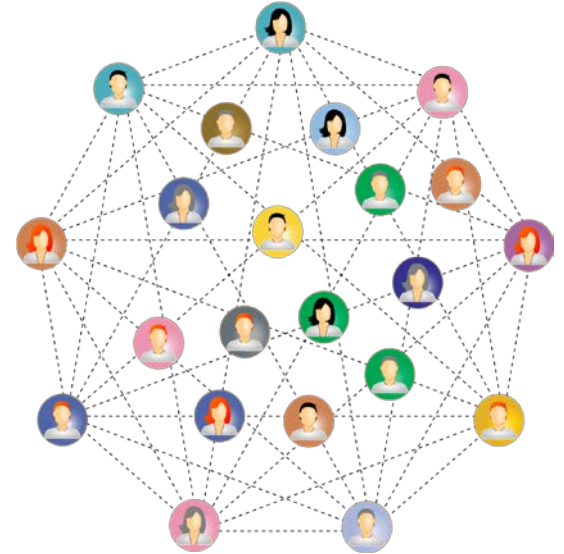
- <https://texasdeafed.org/professionals/classroom-tools>
- <https://freeseedictionary.wordpress.com/> (free Signing Exact English dictionary)
- <http://dailycues.com/learn/learn-to-cue-online/> (learn cued speech)
- <http://seethesound.org/> (Visual Phonics resources)
- <https://www.infanthearing.org/signit/> (FREE ASL Lessons)

Community Resources: Connecting

- PAUSE Retreat – Overnight retreat for moms and female caregivers
- Local Family Events – Watch the Hands & Voices Newsletter!
- Tuesday Topics - First Tuesday of the month on the Texas Hands & Voices Facebook page from 8-9 pm

Connecting Families Across Texas

- Website- www.txhandsandvoices.org
- Facebook - facebook.com/TXHandV
and facebook.com/TXHVSspanish
- Twitter - @TXHandV
- eNews & Calendar-
txhandsandvoices.org/txhv/events



Service Coordinators: Connecting with GBYS

- Child has a suspected or confirmed hearing level, slight through profound
- Parents give consent
- Share Hands & Voices website and information
- GBYS can begin before IFSP - services separate from ECI
- List on IFSP as a resource for family
- D/HH services not required for family to access GBYS



GBYS: Connecting with Families

- SC can discuss GBYS services with family during intake
- Families can be connected to GBYS at any time
- Share handouts from H&V/GBYS
- Share website info
- Referral can come from anyone (parent, professional, etc)
- Complete an online application at <http://www.txhandsandvoices.org/txhv/programs/txgbys/>
 - Services can be requested in English or in Spanish



Educational Resource Center on Deafness

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Statewide outreach and support
- Located at Texas School for the Deaf
- Services provided to all families, programs, professionals and students who are not enrolled at TSD
- Online and face-to-face classes for sign skill development and literacy
- Classes offered in ASL and SEE
- Spanish speaking instructors and Hispanic Liaison services available

ERCOD: <https://www.tsd.state.tx.us/apps/pages/outreach>

Crossroads: Deaf Education Website: www.texasdeafed.org



CROSSROADS

Your Trusted Resource for Deaf Education in Texas

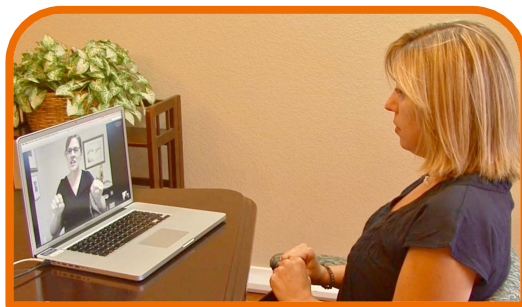


**EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE CENTER
ON DEAFNESS**

ERCOD Family Programs & Services: Family Signs

- Family Signs
 - Classes to teach sign to family of child who is deaf/hard of hearing
 - ASL or SEE teleintervention via the internet (Spanish speaking instructors available)
 - Weekly sessions scheduled at convenience of family in their own home
 - No cost
 - All family members (including extended family) are welcome to participate
 - Focus for classes is on the adults
 - Up to 4 semesters of classes offered per family

www.TexasDeafEd.org/fs



ERCOD Family Programs & Services: Shared Reading Project

- Shared Reading Project

- Classes to teach parents/caregivers how to read to child using sign
- ASL or SEE teleintervention (Spanish speaking instructors available)
- Weekly sessions scheduled at convenience of family in their own home
- No cost
- Child is directly involved - focus is both child and parent/caregiver participating together



ERCOD Family Programs & Services: Family Weekend Retreat

- Annual weekend event for parents/guardians and family of children who deaf/hard of hearing between the ages of birth and 21 years old
- Weekend costs include:
 - Workshops for adults (ages 18 and older)
 - Activities, games, and field trips for children ages 6 mos - 17 years
 - Sibshop for hearing siblings ages 7-12 years
 - Families stay on TSD campus, meals included
- Occurs in June each year
- Participants arrive Friday afternoon/evening and leave mid-day Sunday



www.TexasDeafEd.org/fwr

ERCOD Family Programs & Services: Communication Skills Workshop

- Annual week long ASL immersion workshops for parents/guardians of children who deaf/hard of hearing
- Parents must have a deaf/hard of hearing child in early intervention or school services grades PPCD - 12
- Provides sign communication opportunities, including:
 - Improve expressive and receptive signed communication skills
 - Interact with Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing professionals
 - Learn more about Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community

www.TexasDeafEd.org/csw



If you have any questions or need assistance, contact us at:

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