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 responsivity.
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)

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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/TXHVSpanish
- 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](https://www.tsd.state.tx.us/apps/pages/outreach)

Crossroads: Deaf Education Website:  [www.texasdeafed.org](http://www.texasdeafed.org)
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

www.TexasDeafEd.org/srp
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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