



Guide By Your Side is a Hands & Voices program offered free to families in BC as part of the BC Early Hearing Program.



Parent Quotes...

“Our guide was outstanding in every aspect. She provided me with a lot of comfort, made us aware of programs and gave us support to pursue them.”

“In our experience, the deaf/hard of hearing role models are warm and welcoming ambassadors. They replace the fear of the unknown with the safety of community.”

BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority



PARENT TO PARENT

Congratulations on your new baby and welcome to the very supportive deaf/hard of hearing community. Our kids are older now, but we were once parents of babies and toddlers identified deaf or hard of hearing. We recognize this can be an overwhelming and emotional time for families. What helped? Having contact with other parents – we felt less isolated and better prepared.

We want you to feel encouraged knowing there are many resources and services available to you. Starting out we knew very little and we were in a similar position to where you might be now. We learned the most helpful things to do were:

- connect with other parents and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing
- begin early language services

Guide By Your Side provides:

- Parent Guides to listen, share experiences & resources
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Guides to share a positive perspective from their day-to-day life as a Deaf or Hard of Hearing adult
- Support from Guides who are trained to be unbiased and encourage information from a variety of perspectives
- Compassion and knowledge from parents who have a deaf/hard of hearing child and adult role models who have grown up deaf/hard of hearing

Why is this Support Service important?

- It offers experience from Guides who know what it is like to raise a deaf/hard of hearing child or have grown up deaf/hard of hearing
- It gives the family a chance to connect with others who are traveling along the same path
- It helps families identify communication opportunities

Who is eligible for the Guide By Your Side program?

In BC, Guide By Your Side is offered to families of infants and very young children identified through newborn hearing screening.

For more information about BC's Guide By Your Side:

www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing • 1-866-612-2347 • gbys@cw.bc.ca



B.C.
HANDS &
VOICES

We believe in the
Hands & Voices motto,

*“What works for your
child is what makes the
choice right.”™*



MORE PARENT RESOURCES

BC Hands & Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families with children age 0-5 who are deaf or hard of hearing. We are a parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods, believing that families will make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support. Our goal is to support families in achieving successful outcomes for their children.

BC Hands & Voices provides:

- Social events for families
- Educational events for parents
- Monthly informational e-newsletters
- Website with many family stories and articles

For more information about BC Hands & Voices:

web: www.bchandsandvoices.com

email: info@bchandsandvoices.com

BC Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Aged 0-5

A Facebook group for BC families to connect, share, ask questions and keep in touch with each other as their children grow.

www.facebook.com/groups/853918531357842/

BC has a wide range of services available to families. Your early intervention agency can help you learn about and connect to other services in the future.

BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital
and the Provincial Health Services Authority