

Who is eligible for the *Guide By Your Side* program?

In British Columbia, *Guide By Your Side* is offered to families of infants and very young children recently found to have hearing loss through newborn hearing screening.

Parent to parent support for families of older children is available through early intervention agencies and parent organizations. For more information, please contact BC Hands & Voices: info@bchandsandvoices.com



Quotes from Parents...

"I feel so much better and not so alone after talking with the Parent Guide. Talking with her helped me realize that other families have faced this and they can still have good lives."

"It was so helpful to talk with the Parent Guide because I was able to talk about the emotional aspect which I cannot do with the doctors involved."



For more information about British Columbia's *Guide By Your Side* program, visit the BCEHP website at:

www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing

call 1-866-612-2347

or email gbys@cw.bc.ca

www.handsandvoices.org

www.bchandsandvoices.com



**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE**

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



BC Early Hearing Program

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

Guide By Your Side provides...

- A Parent Guide to listen and share resources
- Unbiased support
- Compassion and knowledge from a parent who has a child with a hearing loss



Why is Parent Support Important?

- It helps families identify options without telling them what options to choose.
- It offers experience from a Parent Guide who knows what it is like to raise a child who has a hearing loss.
- It gives the family a chance to meet others who are traveling down the same path.

What is *Guide By Your Side*?

The Hands & Voices *Guide By Your Side* program provides parent to parent support for families of infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Many parents find it helpful to speak with another parent who has been through something similar.

The Power of Parent to Parent

Every family with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing has a different story to tell, yet we all share a common bond. Parent Guides understand the importance of parents supporting and learning from one another. Families who are just beginning the journey can learn from experienced parents — the challenges as well as the joys of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Looking back, many parents regret that they did not connect with other parents sooner.



The Role of the Parent Guide

Guide By Your Side Parent Guides are there to support families by listening and sharing stories about their own experiences raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Parent Guides can also share practical advice a parent learns over the years (e.g. how did we keep those hearing aids on our baby's ears and out of his mouth?).

Parent Guides are trained to support families without bias towards any particular communication approach (e.g. oral, sign, cued speech, combined methods, etc.). We believe in the Hands & Voices slogan, “What works for your child is what makes the choice right.”™

