

TEN TIPS FOR PARENTS OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING KIDS

Start Early

Begin support services for your child as soon as you can.

Early exposure to language is really important for learning and brain development. Research shows babies can sign at a few months of age!

Learn about Deaf Culture

Get to know the Deaf Community and our unique ways of communication. Understanding and respecting Deaf culture will help you support your child better.

Build Your Communication Toolkit

We encourage all parents to incorporate ASL into their Communication Toolkit; your child will benefit from having both ASL and English and possibly hearing aids or cochlear implants. Every child is different, so work with Deaf professionals to find what suits your child best.

Relying on technology alone is a limited path.

Fight for Equitable and Accessible Education

Make sure your child gets the same educational opportunities as other kids. Work with teachers and Deaf advocates to get the right support.

Connect with Other Parents

Talk with other parents who are going through similar experiences. Sharing stories and advice can be really helpful.

Encourage Independence

Help your child become more independent. This can boost self-confidence.

Expose Your Child to Different Experiences

Let your child try out different activities. This will help your child become more well-rounded, confident, and boost communication skills.

Celebrate Achievements

Celebrate your child's successes, big and small. Positive reinforcement builds self-confidence.

Be Patient and Flexible

Understand that parenting a Deaf child might require more patience and flexibility. Be open to adjusting how you communicate and parent as your child grows.

WAYS DHHSC CAN SUPPORT PARENTS

Advocacy Services

We're here to ensure your child can be a part of all community programs. We can explain your rights under laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that keep your child safe.

Communication Services (including Interpreting)

If you need help with your child's communication needs or using special devices, we can assist. We can show your family how to use a videophone or get an interpreter for your child.

Independent Living Skills Instruction

Do you want your child to grow more independent age-appropriately? We can work with you and your child to learn skills that will assist with effectively navigating the world.

Counseling for Parents and Children

If you're facing challenges, we're here to help. We can talk one-on-one or in a group to support you through family and life challenges.

Job Development & Placement Assistance for Teens

If your child is a teenager looking for a job, we can help! We will assist with the job search, creating a resume, filling out job forms, preparing for an interview, and more.

Community Education for Parents

Invite us to share more guidance on raising a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child or join our classes on different topics. Let us know what you're curious about!

Information & Referral

We have lots of information about events, camps, schools, and more for your child. If you need to know something, we'll connect you to the right resource.

Special Programs

We often have grant-funded programs, some of which support families like yours. Contact us today to see what our current offerings are!



DEAF & HARD OF HEARING SERVICE CENTER

Connect. Inspire. Succeed.

DHHSC

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