



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 caring and supportive community of families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Our kids are older now, but we were once parents of babies and toddlers identified deaf or hard of hearing. We understand this can be an overwhelming and emotional time for families at first. What helped? Talking with other parents helped us feel less alone and more confident.

There are many resources, programs and services available to you. Starting out 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
- learn from Deaf and Hard of Hearing role models
- begin early language services

What is Guide By Your Side?

- Support from parents also raising a child who is deaf/hard of hearing. Parent Guides will listen, share experiences & resources.
- Support from adults who grew up deaf and hard of hearing. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides will provide perspective from their life.
- All guides are trained to support families with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

How this Program Helps

- Many parents find it helpful to connect with others who have been through something similar.
- It helps families explore different ways to support their child's language and communication.

Who is eligible for the Guide By Your Side program?

Guide By Your Side is available to BC families whose babies or young children were identified through newborn hearing screening.



Learn more about Guide By Your Side:

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



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

– Hands & Voices motto



MORE PARENT RESOURCES

BC Hands & Voices

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. 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

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.



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Learn more about BC Hands & Voices:

www.bchandsandvoices.com | info@bchandsandvoices.com