

# Illinois E.A.R.S

E.A.R.S = Events And Resources Statewide



## GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

Illinois Guide By Your Side (GBYS)  
Carrie Balian, Program Coordinator  
Phone: (224) 343-1873  
Email: ilhvgbys@gmail.com  
Web: www.ilhandsandvoices.org/GBYS

### Save the Date

- ASL classes.....starting 9/12
- Deaf Ninja....Oct 11
- Advocacy Training...Nov 11
- Sound Experience....Nov 23
- EHDI conference...March 8-10
- Mom's Night Inn...April 25

## Let's Play Ball!

In August, IL Hands & Voices held an event at the ballpark! It was a wonderful day to see the Windy City Thunderbolts play against the Joilet Slammers at Ozinga Field. One hundred and fifteen people purchased tickets in support of our chapter and showed their spirit at the game. The crowd was filled with Hands & Voices t-shirts that were sold prior to game day. Before the event started, we hosted a tailgate in the parking lot. The tailgate was a perfect time for families to connect and the kids to interact! The kids enjoyed snacks, beverages, and activities and the adults enjoyed each other's company. When the gates opened to Ozinga field there was a playground that the kids could play on too. Pre game entertainment was fun with a commemoration concert to celebrate Woodstock's 50th anniversary. We also had the amazing oppor-



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## Every Child, Every Family, Every Leader

We had 3 members of our team and 3 year old Axel (what a trooper this kid is) attend the annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference in Washington DC at the end of September. This year's conference was held on the beautiful Gallaudet University campus at the Kellogg Conference Hotel. The theme of the annual conference was Every Child, Every Family, Every Leader and the sessions did not disappoint. Our team arrived early to attend the trainings specific to our Leadership and Guide By Your Side Program, we always bring home new information that we learn from around the world. Illinois started out the conference speaker. She talked to serve families with children of hearing from all



other leaders from very own Karen Putz as the first Plenary about what it takes children who are deaf or walks of life. Karen  
(Continued on page 13)



### Illinois Hands & Voices (H&V)

Chairperson Contact:  
Andrea Marwah  
Phone: (877) 350-4556  
Email:  
ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com  
Web:  
www.ilhandsandvoices.org

This newsletter was produced by Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side in collaboration with:



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tunity to send fifteen deaf or hard of hearing kids and two deaf adults onto the field to stand with the Thunderbolts players during the National Anthem. Our very own IL Hands & Voices Vice President, Andrea Stambaugh, also had the honor to start the game by throwing out the first pitch. Every inning of the game was jam packed with fun! The game ended with a big win for the Thunderbolts! The kids got to go onto the field and run the bases and there was an incredible firework display to conclude the event! IL Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side would like to thank those who participated in our event. It was great to see so many smiling faces.



  
ILLINOIS  
HANDS &  
VOICES

**Save The  
Date!**

**MOM'S  
NIGHT INN**  
•  
APRIL 25,  
2020

**Sheraton Hotel,  
Naperville**

**(630) 697-3544 (v/text)**  
**ILhandsandvoices@gmail.com**

Mom's Night Inn is an overnight retreat for moms or female caregivers who are raising children of ALL ages who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is a way to meet and share experiences with other moms who are on a similar journey.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION RIGHTS & ADVOCACY TRAINING

FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

## Protecting the Parent—School Relationship

### Training for professionals and parents who:

- ⇒ Work with children who have a disability age birth to 22
- ⇒ Have a child with a disability age birth to 22
- ⇒ Want to know what special education legal rights are
- ⇒ Want the most appropriate education services for their child
- ⇒ Want to know their rights as a parent in today's education system
- ⇒ Want to go into an IEP meeting more prepared
- ⇒ Want to gain understanding of IDEA, ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- ⇒ Want to be empowered to be an active IEP team member
- ⇒ Need a refresher course in legal rights and advocacy

### When:

Saturday, November 2nd

### Time:

9:00am to 3:00pm

(Please bring a packed lunch — we work through lunch)

### Location:

Child's Voice School  
180 Hansen Court  
Wood Dale, IL

### Cost for the course:

**FREE**

EI Credit  
PD Credit  
LSLS Credit  
applied for

## REGISTER TODAY

[CLICK here to register](#)

Or visit: <http://bit.ly/ISD-OutreachEvents>



**State of Illinois**

Department of Human Services  
Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach

**Trainer: Andrea Marwah**  
*IL School for the Deaf Outreach*  
[Andrea.marwah@illinois.gov](mailto:Andrea.marwah@illinois.gov)  
331-702-8944

**Please note:** Childcare is not provided for this event, no children under age 15 may attend.  
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

October 11, 2019  
**Deaf Ninja Night Out**



**“Stay strong and proud  
of who YOU are!”**

**Kyle Schulze  
Deaf Ninja Warrior**

**OCTOBER 11, 2019  
Prairie Point Elementary (Oswego, IL)  
6pm-8pm**

**Join us for a night out with Kyle Schulze– AKA  
Deaf Ninja Warrior! Kyle is a 2 time competitor  
on seasons 9 and 10 of NBC’s “American Ninja  
Warrior”.**

## SibLINGS, Science, and Space Aliens

It was that time of the year again for the annual science fair. The weekend before the fair, in typical late-Khan fashion, I asked my six-year-old son, Yousha, what project he was interested in doing for the fair. I expected him to reply that he wanted to build a dragon or some type of servant robot and that I would be spending the weekend at Home Depot and Michaels, buying a whole bunch of nuts, bolts, and washi tape that I would have no idea how to use. He surprised me by responding that he was interested in doing a project on hearing loss and testing our hearing, inspired by his younger brother, Yameen. I blinked back tears and gave him a hug as we worked together to figure out his project.

My one-year-old, Yameen, was diagnosed with bi-lateral profound hearing loss at birth. He was fitted with hearing aids at three months and a cochlear implant at 10 months (as of this article, he is scheduled to receive his second implant in the early fall). As parents who had no known family history or knowledge of hearing loss, my husband and I submerged ourselves into the world of hearing and hearing loss, learning as much as we could through books, articles, websites, doctors, therapists, and fellow parents. Being a researcher by trade, I was especially engrossed in reading and analyzing study after study and by the time Yameen was a few months old, I could definitely hold my own in conversations with the professionals.

What I did not realize at the time was that Yousha was absorbing this information with just as much vigor and speed as his parents. He was able to draw a diagram of the inner ear, show and explain how the ear "hears", and interpret an audiogram. Pretty impressive for a six-year-old. Not only was Yousha learning about hearing loss, but he was becoming Yameen's biggest advocate and supporter. As an older sibling of a kid with hearing loss, Yousha was understanding what it means to take care of a younger brother with some special needs. He explains to others what a cochlear implant is and how it helps Yameen hear, perhaps in a way that is more straightforward and articulate than his parents. Yousha helps Yameen keep his implant on his head and is quick to note when it has fallen off or when Yameen has pulled it off. Yousha helps us brainstorm methods for testing Yameen on his "Ling" sounds and various objects we can use around the house to test his hearing.

I was pleased when Yousha wanted to do his science project on hearing loss. Yousha tested his family members' hearing, plotted the results on an audiogram, and made a 3-D diagram of the cochlea. It was a proud moment for me when he won 1st prize, but was a prouder moment when Yousha came home and put his ribbon around Yameen, saying they both deserved the prize.

Of course, it's not always happy moments with these

two. Like any siblings, they will annoy of each other and annoy each other. I know Yousha tires of the constant appointments and therapy sessions; he has a bag of activities in the car that is kept for all the times he has to sit in waiting rooms.

Yameen gets frustrated

when his brother creates barriers to stop him from entering his "Lego-Land". When the green-eyed monster rears its ugly head, Yousha will act out to receive his own share of attention. For example, when we admonish him for shouting in the house, he responds that he has to shout to make sure



## Summer Connections

On a beautiful summer morning, Guide By Your Side hosted a family event at Bison's Bluff park in Schaumburg. We had a great turn out with kids ranging from 2 months old to 10 years old. While the kiddos played in the water, sand, and playground, the adults had some time to talk and get to know one another. This was the perfect opportunity to share advice and learn from each other. There were lots of laughs and stories shared, which was especially helpful to families newer to the world of hearing loss. These events are FREE to families and we love to see new and familiar faces!



What works for your child is what makes the choice right™©

# GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

*Providing Unbiased emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who have a hearing loss.*

To receive more information or to request a Parent Guide:

Call/Text: 224-343-1873  
Fax: 866-695-3880  
E-mail: [ilhvgbys@gmail.com](mailto:ilhvgbys@gmail.com)  
WEB: [www.ilhandsandvoices.org/gbys](http://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/gbys)



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™

## We Provide:

- > Unbiased support
- > Firsthand personal experience
- > Compassion
- > Resources
- > Notice of upcoming events
- > Someone to listen and talk to
- > Opportunities to meet other families

## For Whom?

- > Illinois families who have a child with a hearing loss or a hearing loss is suspected.

## Cost:

- > Free!

Please fill in the information below and fax, text or email to us:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be matched with a Parent Guide

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about IL Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side and resources

To be matched with a Parent Guide, please fax to 866-695-3880 or email to [ilhvgbys@gmail.com](mailto:ilhvgbys@gmail.com)

## Socialization can be a Challenge for our Kids – What can you do to help?

Socialization for children is a natural adaptation to the world and people around them. Children grow up learning by observing others. A big part of learning by observing is the language we use and how we use that language. Why is socialization so important? Well, it's our bridge to happiness and success as humans. Friendships provide children with insights regarding rules in different social situations, opportunities to navigate through social conflict and ensures we are aware of the social norms during interaction. Let's not stop there, what about the economic factor? Our kids need to understand how to interact with different people. An employee communicating with a boss is a different interaction than a child interacting with a sibling, parent or friend. Research shows that individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing are more likely to lose a job because of social or personal reasons rather than poor job performance.

For Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing socialization can be a challenge. So, what's the concern? Many of our children struggle socially. They may enter grade school and have numerous friends and then as they near 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade that number has greatly decreased, and in many cases our children feel alone, with no real friends to speak of or very few. What could be causing this? In many instances it is simply that our children have not acquired the social nuances required to make and keep lasting relationships. As a mother to 3 children ranging in age from 13-18, I know firsthand how different social development is for a child who is deaf compared the ones that are hearing. My soon to be 18-year-old daughter has struggled since 5<sup>th</sup> grade with friendships and social situations. It pains me to say, I did it all wrong. That's where you come in. I can help you to ensure that your son or daughter develop a healthy social skill and learn the nuances of making and keeping relationships.

Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing often miss verbal cues, or they may miss observing an interaction because they aren't aware it is happening. Hearing children just "notice" things around them easily, almost subconsciously and develop socially with that information naturally. As a parent of a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing you need to work harder to ensure the healthiness of your child's social wellbeing. So, what can you do? Teach, show, model behaviors all the time. Teach them what is appropriate in a given social scenario, teach them that other people have feelings and emotions relating to any social interaction, just like they do. Wikipedia defines Theory of Mind as "the ability to attribute mental states — beliefs, intents, desires, emotions, knowledge, etc. — to oneself, and to others, and to understand that others have beliefs, desires, intentions, and perspectives that are different from one's own". Many children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have weak Theory of Mind skill. Understanding that helps you to do what needs to be done to ensure social success.

Here are some tips you can use to ensure your child is on target with social norms:

- Provide opportunities to develop language
- Model reading – read together (and ensure your child is understanding what they read, don't jump to chapter books if they aren't ready, picture books show the story and are easy to explain)
- Teach your child emotion words, what they are and what they mean, use emotions and expression (remember facial expression is key for those using ASL, but it's also important with spoken English) if you mom told you to "stop making those faces or your face will stick like that", forget it and do it anyway. Expression is key to our child understanding feeling words
- Express your own feelings in situations (if you are angry that you were just cut off in traffic, tell your child what happened, how you feel and why you feel that way)
- Think and express how the other person in a situation may feel (tell your child why that person may have cut you off, there could be something else going on, what could it be? Believe it or not, this will cool you off too!)
- Use many different feeling words all day long, here are a few: *Proud, Delighted, Brave, Cheerful, Confident, Worried, Satisfied, Joyful, Frightened, Calm, Excited, Confused, Frustrated, Curious, Friendly, Shy, Ignored, Lonely, Interested, Embarrassed, Jealous, Angry, Impatient, Alarmed, Intrigued, Responsible, Blue, Thankful, Strong, Annoyed, Defeated, Anxious, Nervous, Bored, Surprised, Silly, Uncomfortable, Stubborn, Safe, Relieved, Peaceful, Overwhelmed, Loving/Loved, Cranky, Timid, Grouchy, Cozy, Furious, Grateful*
- Find pictures in magazines or on the internet and talk about the social interactions occurring: what's happening in a picture; what are they feeling, thinking, wanting; what are they communication (saying or what are their facial expressions saying)

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# Was your child recently diagnosed with a hearing loss?



Would you like access to resources to help with hearing aid management?

If so, you may be eligible for a study conducted by researchers at Utah State University.

The study includes:

- Completing a six-week eHealth program and online questionnaires

Participants can receive up to \$50 in Amazon eGift cards

To be eligible\*:

- Your child needs to be under 3 years of age;
- Your child needs to be scheduled for a hearing aid fitting, and
- You need access to the internet

\*Other criteria apply

To get more information about participating in the study contact  
Dr. Karen Muñoz:

Karen.munoz@usu.edu

(435) 797-2318

IRB #10389





**Where: DoubleTree by Hilton**

**3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL  
60532 - Phone: 630-245-7600**

**When: Saturday October 12th, 2019  
- Sunday October 13th, 2019**

**Event Begins:** 9:00 am Saturday  
(Check in between 8:30-9:00 am)

**Event Concludes:** 12:00 pm Sunday

**Event Registration: \$95.00 per person**  
(adults and children 12 years of age and older;  
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

Children under 12 with paid adult is \$55.00  
(SHARED ROOM ACCOMODATIONS)

Cost for a single occupancy guest is \$135.00  
(PRIVATE OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS)

## C.A.R.T.E.R's Silent Weekend 2019

Our event is designed for parents & families with deaf or hard of hearing children. We welcome children of ALL AGES based on parents' discretion, however most of our program is recommended for those 12 years & older. We will have separate child activities during some portions of our event, please let us know if you do not wish for your child to participate in the youth activities.

We also welcome teachers, early intervention specialists, & medical professionals whom serve the deaf and hard of hearing and want to improve their sign language skills.

This is a fun weekend event focused on sign language immersion through games, activities & entertainment to create a natural learning experience for the entire family!

Great opportunity to build relationships with other families.

Gather community resources utilizing sign language or information about events & other organizations that offer support for parents & families with deaf and hard of hearing children.

Registration includes hotel accommodations, lunch, dinner, dessert, breakfast, entry to Exhibit Hall, ASL educational materials & prizes!

Register online or by mail, more information on our website;  
[www.carterssilentweekend.org](http://www.carterssilentweekend.org)

Checks payable to CARTER. Thank you!

Questions? Contact Kristine Ringelsten at 815-355-4502  
or by email at [carterssilentweekend@gmail.com](mailto:carterssilentweekend@gmail.com)



CARTER's Silent Weekend 2018



# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

**MED**  **EL**

**WOOD DALE, ILLINOIS**

To parents of children learning to listen, join us for a Family Workshop Series! Each night will cover a different topic that will enhance your understanding of your child's hearing loss and how to maximize treatment and therapy. Speaker Michael Douglas has over 25 years of experience teaching listening and spoken language to children with hearing loss. The Family Education Workshops Series will provide you with materials to take home, opportunities to practice new skills, and set listening/language goals, all while connecting with other parents of children with hearing loss.



You'll be hearing from s!

180 Hansen Ct.  
Wood Dale, IL 60191

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Sept. 5, 2019  
Oct. 9, 2019

Nov. 14th, 2019  
Jan. 16th, 2020

March 12, 2020  
April 16, 2020

For more information and to register, visit:

<https://cvent.me/ExBe8>

All Cochlear Implant recipients and families are welcome!  
Dinner will be served | Childcare provided by volunteers

## Families Included in Receiving better Special Education (FIRME) Training



The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is offering a free training to Latino parents of children with disabilities. Parents who complete this training in this training will:

1. Learn more about their special education rights.
2. Have a better understanding of IEP meeting documents
3. Collaborate and engage with other Latino parents of children with disabilities

The training will consist of four session. We will provide food at each session. Participants will receive five, \$10 gift cards. We are also asking all participants to:

- Complete three surveys to document the effectiveness of the training.
- Be videotaped (for less than three minutes) to share what you learned during the training.
- Participate in an individual interview to share your thoughts about the training.

**Potential Participants:** Please consider participating in this study if:

(a) You are a Latino parent or caregiver of a child with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities **AND**

(b) Your child between the ages of **3-18** at a public school and qualifies for special education and related services

In appreciation for your time, **you will receive \$50** for participating in this study. Specifically, participants will receive \$10 after attending each training session (total of 4 session). Participants will receive the other \$10 after completing the follow-up interview.

**Location:** Lozano Branch, Chicago Public Library, 1805 S. Loomis Street, Chicago

**Dates:** You can choose whether to attend on Friday mornings (October 11, 18, 25, and Nov. 1)

OR Saturday mornings (October 12, 19, 26, and Nov 2)

**Times:** 10:30 am -1:30 pm

If you are interested in participating in the study or if you would like more information, please contact:

Kristina Rios, [kr6@illinois.edu](mailto:kr6@illinois.edu), 661-586-7698 or

Meghan Burke [meghanbm@illinois.edu](mailto:meghanbm@illinois.edu), 217-300-1226

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Institutional Review Board  
#19616

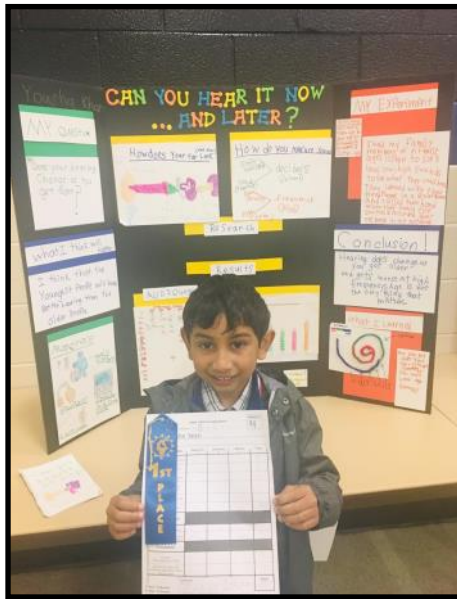



(Continued from page 5)

that Yameen can hear him and don't we want to make sure Yameen can hear us at all times?

Despite Yousha's knowledge and support, I remind myself not to place too many expectations on his skinny shoulders, as he is only six years old. I was reminded of this the other day when we were at a party and one of Yousha's friends asked him, "What is that thing your brother wears on his head?" And Yousha responded, "It helps him hear... but he also uses it to talk to aliens in outer space." (I think we know the topic of next year's science fair project...).

Written by Dr. Sadya Khan

**CHOICES for Parents**

What is CHOICES for Parents?

CHOICES for Parents is a statewide coalition of parents and professionals connecting children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing and their families with resources, advocacy, information, services, and support.

We also offer FREE resources: ASL classes in spoken Spanish and English, READ Kits, Children & Hearing Loss Resource Notebook and more! Contact us today!

**What can we do for families?**

CHOICES for Parents can refer families to resources and services such as:

- Developmental therapy
- Deaf mentors
- Audiological services
- Sign language classes in English and Spanish
- Assistive technology
- Home-based support
- Psychological/counseling services
- Educational options
- Events in the Deaf Community
- Events in the Latino Deaf Community
- Cued Speech classes
- Religious services
- Individual and group parent support
- Child and Family Connections offices
- Medical services
- Speech therapy
- Auditory Verbal/Oral therapy
- Listening and Spoken Language support
- Insurance/public aid
- Division of Specialized Care for Children
- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants/implantable devices

**Contact Us!**

P.O. Box 646, Highland Park, IL 60035  
312.523.6400 (call/text) or 866.733.8729  
Fax: 312.277.0997  
info@choicesforparents.org  
www.choicesforparents.org

Connecting families of children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing to resources, advocacy, information, services, and support statewide.

## Parent Café Event in Southern Illinois Connects Parents

The Illinois Service Resource Center coordinated a Parent Café event in Southern Illinois that was attended by 45 individuals, including families of nine students from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Additional attendees included teachers from Marion School District and students from local college sign language classes. Increased involvement of parents is a goal of the Illinois State Board of Education, and Parent Café events provide this opportunity. ISRC Parent Facilitator Celesta Bowers organized the event, which included refreshments donated by the Marion Lions Club. Games and activities focused on building language and communication skills for families.

Evaluation forms collected that evening demonstrated that 100% of the attendees agreed that they learned something new, that they had an opportunity to connect with other parents, and that they have a better understanding of the importance of involvement in their child's education, while 85% indicated that they know more about how to be more involved in their child's education and that they plan to increase their involvement in their child's education. Bowers noted "I'm not sure what I expected when planning this event, as this was my first event as a

(Continued on page 14)

## ASL Interpreted Theatre Shows

The Paramount Theatre in Aurora announces that there will be two certified sign interpreters translating all dialogue and lyrics into American Sign Language at the following performances:

**Newsies** – Friday, October 18, 2019 at 8 p.m.

**Beauty and the Beast** – Friday, December 27, 2019 at 8 p.m.

**The Secret of my Success** – Friday, March 27, 2020 at 8 p.m.

**Kinky Boots** – Friday, June 12, 2020 at 8 p.m.

Group discounts are available for just 10 or more. Student groups of 10 or more pay just \$20/ ticket for these performances. Contact Joel for more information.

Email: JoelF@paramountarts.com or call 630.723.2470.



# Sound Experience

\*For Families of Children with Hearing Loss\*

Join us on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for:  
"Special Education Rights"

- **Guest Speaker:** Andrea Marwah from the Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach Team
- **Location:** Lurie Children's Outpatient Center in Westchester (2301 Enterprise Drive in Westchester, Illinois)
- **Time:** 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Please R.S.V.P.** to Cara Donahue at [edonahue@luriechildrens.org](mailto:edonahue@luriechildrens.org) or call 312-227-3061 and let us know how many children and how many adults will be attending.
- **2020 Save-the-Dates:** February 22 (Pizza & Face Painting Party) and April 25 (Kids All Grown Up Panel)

\*\*Sound Experience provides an opportunity to network with other parents of children with hearing loss. Children (and siblings) are encouraged to come so that they can meet other children with hearing loss. Crafts, games and snacks will be provided.\*\*

(Continued from page 1)

did a great job examining the core questions that every leader can face, and she shared innovative ways to make an impact. It was inspirational and a great start to a great conference. The first ever Hands & Voices Got Talent competition was held, and Andrea Stambaugh and Team 11 placed in the



top 3 teams. Congratulations Andrea! Illinois celebrated their 15th year as a chapter, this is a big deal as we are one of the oldest chapters in the world and we are still going strong. Our president Andrea Marwah presented a very well attended session on Socialization Skills for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Our team is still sifting through the information we brought home so that we can do better at bringing support to our families here in Illinois. We had a little fun time too, visiting the Signing Starbucks was one of many highlights, including walking many miles through the sites of DC. Next years conference will be held in Tennessee, we will share information on this conference as it becomes available, it's a conference worth attending.

## CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

DEAF & HARD OF HEARING  
HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP  
CLUB

MCKINLEY PARK  
2210 W. PERSHING ROAD

### FRIDAY NIGHTS

4:00pm - 9:00pm

Starts September 13<sup>th</sup> - December 6<sup>th</sup>

\*Leadership Skills\*

\*Sports\*

\*Game Play\*

\*City-Wide Events\*

\*Community Service Opportunities\*

**FREE**

For more information contact:  
Sarah B. Faber, Program Specialist for Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
[sarah.faber@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:sarah.faber@chicagoparkdistrict.com)  
or (312) 399-9574 (Text)

Join our Facebook Group @ Chicago Park District Deaf & Hard of Hearing



City of Chicago, Lori E. Lightfoot Mayor  
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners  
Chicago Park District, Michael Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO  
For more information about your Chicago Park District,  
visit our website at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)  
or call (312) 742-PLAY; (312) 747-2000 (TTY).

Stay Connected.  
@chicagoparks

## Do you have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing age 36 months or younger?



You are eligible to get a **free** online class to learn American Sign Language!

**SIGN IT!**  
LEARN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ONLINE

Go beyond single signs!  
Learn conversational ASL with Rachel Coleman from Signing Time.

To apply, visit [www.infantheating.org/signit](http://www.infantheating.org/signit)



## Looking for a great way to help IL Hands & Voices?

*No time to run to the store for cards?*

*No time to do a scrapbook of your kids?*

*Looking for a unique iPhone cover?*

Illinois Hands & Voices has a solution: SendOutCards! Not only do we use this service for our non-profit organization, we are offering it to our members and families. For every subscription, IL Hands & Voices receives a percentage.

With SendOutCards, you can create customized greeting cards that can also include gift cards, books and gifts as well. The company prints and sends out the cards through US mail. You can upload your handwriting font and signature too!

**SendOutCards can also help you create:**

- Custom photo mugs
- Canvas prints
- iPhone and iPad covers
- Metal prints
- Scrap book and photo books
- Postcards
- Posters
- And much, much more

**SendOutCards™**

*"Changing Lives... One Card at a Time"*

[www.sendoutcards.com/illinoishandsandvoices](http://www.sendoutcards.com/illinoishandsandvoices)

**Check it out!**

Illinois Hands & Voices and Guide By Your Side participate in various fundraisers to support and enhance these organizations. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation contact Andrea Marwah at (877) 350-4556 or email her at [ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com).

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Parent Facilitator; I just knew that we were missing something here in Southern Illinois. DHH Family Game Night was a great event for our families. I am happy to be a Parent Facilitator for ISRC and be able to help bring more events for parents and our children. I enjoyed talking to other parents and hearing their journeys, where they are and where they have come from and where they are going. It was especially enjoyable watching the children interact and seeing their smiling faces."



*Participants in the ISRC Parent Café event in Marion, IL posed with the "I Love You" sign. Families had an opportunity to participate in activities to increase their involvement with their child's education, including language based games. Feedback from the event indicated that parents learned something new at the event, acquired a better understanding of the importance of involvement in their child's education, and had an opportunity to connect with other parents.*

# HEAR to LEARN



BUILDING SUCCESS ONE STEP AT A TIME  
Hearing - Language - Literacy



<http://heartolearn.org>

This user friendly learning resource is for parents and professionals to support spoken language learning for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



This website includes:

- Video tutorials
- Downloadable intervention materials
- Current research
- Communities

The website will continue to offer new learning resources, materials, and research - visit often!



# SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

## How We Help

The University of Illinois at Chicago - Division of Specialized Care for Children offers free care coordination for families of children with special health care needs in Illinois.

Care Coordinators tailor services to each family's needs. Our support may include:

- » assistance accessing free diagnostic testing;
- » finding specialized medical care;
- » help utilizing insurance;
- » finding resources and information;
- » developing a plan of care;
- » communicating with doctors, specialists, and schools; and
- » preparing for transition.



Free care coordination is available if your child has, or is suspected of having, a treatable chronic condition in one of the following categories:

- » Cardiac Impairments
- » Cystic Fibrosis
- » Eye Impairments (Cataract, Glaucoma, Strabismus)
- » External Body Impairments (Cleft Lip and Palate, Craniofacial Anomalies)
- » Hearing Impairments
- » Hemophilia
- » Inborn Errors of Metabolism (Phenylketonuria [PKU])
- » Nervous System Impairments (Seizures, Nerve, Brain, Spinal Cord)
- » Orthopedic Impairments
- » Speech Impairments (Dysarthria, Vocal Cord Paralysis)
- » Urinary System Impairments

You may also qualify for financial assistance for the health care needs of your child.

**Call us at (800) 322-3722 to see if we can help.**

We work as quickly as we can to determine if and how we can help.

**See Other Side for More Information**





# SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

## WHO WE ARE

Since 1937, we've been helping families of children with special health care needs in Illinois.

Today, thousands of families throughout Illinois receive some form of help from the University of Illinois at Chicago - Division of Specialized Care for Children each year. Services are coordinated by a network of professional staff, working out of regional offices across the state. We consistently draw on the relationships and knowledge we've built over the decades.



### Care Coordination Teams

Staff work in care coordination teams throughout the state to help families in their community. Teams are formed based on each family's needs and may include:

- » Nurses
- » Social Workers
- » Audiologists
- » Speech-Language Pathologists

### Physicians/Providers

It can be hard to find a provider who's an expert in specific health issues, who also has openings, is close to home, and works within a family's insurance coverage.

We've spent more than 75 years building relationships with the best doctors and providers for children with special needs. Not only do we fully understand the different conditions that require specialized care, we've worked first-hand with an impressive pool of specialists in and around Illinois.

**Visit our website to learn more:**

**[dsc.c.uic.edu](https://dsc.c.uic.edu)**

**See Other Side for More Information**



Experience why

# acs

Is the alternative

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Lombard, Illinois 60148  
800-335-0911  
info@acscaptions.com  
www.acscaptions.com

# CONNECTIONS

## Mentors & Families Working Together

The **Connections Program (CP)** at Chicago Hearing Society (CHS) is an on-going, family-centered support program that links adults who are Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing (D/DB/HH), called Mentors, with families who have children who are D/DB/HH, providing an array of support services. The CP is part of statewide initiative to reach out to families who are hearing and have a child who is D/DB/HH between birth to 22 years old. Research shows a child's natural ability to develop language is strongest within the first years of life and family members are their primary source of language. Through this connection, Mentors provide the entire family with the support, perspective, advocacy, community resources and options necessary for parents to help their D/DB/HH children achieve their full potential in both the hearing and deaf worlds.



*"Considering our daughter was born to hearing parents, there is an area of her life that we can't adequately expose her to and teach her about - we'll never be able to..."* -Parent interviewed for An Illinois Deaf Mentor Services Survey conducted and reported on by a Gallaudet University Regional Center Student in 2014

## How It Works

Parents submit an application to be a part of the CP. The CP coordinator works directly with the family to arrange mentor services. Mentors then visit families, typically two hours per week, in their homes where their child is most comfortable and eager to learn. They are selected to represent the CP for the ease of their communication style with family members and for their comfortable approach with children.

## Contact :

**Michelle Mendiola**

**CHS Youth Program Manager**

Phone: 773-904-0155

Fax: 773-409-1544

E-mail: MMendiola@anixter.org

www.ChicagoHearingSociety.org



# American Sign language

## ASL Level I

# Ridge Park

9625 South Longwood



**ASL Level 1 (Ages 18 & up)**

**When: Thursday Evenings**

**Time: 6pm - 7:30pm**

**Cost: \$60/Fall Session**

Class begins September 12th - December 5th

Recommended Course Book:

"A Basic Course in ASL"

ISBN #0-932666-42-6

Book is available to purchase at the park for \$38.95

For more information about the American Sign Language class, please contact:  
Sarah B. Faber, Program Event & Coordinator - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Programs  
sarah.faber@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Join our FaceBook Group @ Chicago Park District Deaf & Hard of Hearing



City of Chicago, Lori E. Lightfoot Mayor  
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners  
Chicago Park District, Michael Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO  
For more information about your Chicago Park District,  
visit our website at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.org](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.org)  
or call (312) 742-PLAN; (312) 742-3003, (TTY)

Stay Connected.  
@chicagoparks

# 19TH ANNUAL EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION MEETING

## MARCH 8-10, 2020 • KANSAS CITY, MO



Since 2002, the National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Meeting has provided key stakeholders an opportunity to identify areas of concern, promote collaboration, and share best practices. Join with other professionals and parents intent on improving early hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention systems for infants/young children and their families.

The 2020 EHDI Meeting content will be relevant to:

- State EHDI program staff members
- Audiologists
- Physicians and other Health Care Providers
- Families of children with hearing loss
- Early Intervention Specialists
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Advocates
- Representatives from the major organizations working with EHDI programs
- Students

For more information visit <https://ehdimeeting.org/>



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



# Research Opportunity for Children with Hearing Loss

**WHO:** Children between **5 and 12 years** of age  
with hearing loss who use hearing aids or cochlear implants

**WHY:** The Hearing and Language Lab at Northwestern University  
is studying how children with hearing loss listen and learn  
in their everyday environments, such as a classroom.

**WHAT:** During the study, children will play games  
that test their language and cognitive skills. Parents will  
receive monetary compensation for travel and participation.  
Children will receive a book and a small prize.

For more information, please contact Kristi  
in the Hearing and Language Lab at:

**EMAIL:** [hll@northwestern.edu](mailto:hll@northwestern.edu)

**PHONE:** 847-467-4156

**PI:** Tina Grieco-Calub,  
Communication Sciences  
and Disorders,  
Northwestern University

**IRB#** STU00070688



Hearing and  
Language Lab



(Continued from page 7)

- Role play – stop and ask about feeling and thoughts in a situation
- Talk about books, movies, TV shows, videos etc.
- Think out loud when you are problem solving

There are so many ways we can help our children develop strong social skills. In the end it will result in lasting friendships, successful careers and healthy family lives. Explain the world around them, fill in what they are missing. Pre-empt social isolation from happening, it's never too early to start modeling social interactions,

how others may feel and how we are supposed to act depending on the interaction at hand. I hope you made it to the end of this small write up on Socialization, now go find your child and get started, it's never too soon or too late to start. You can begin by telling them what you just read, how it makes your feel and then ask them if you can read this article together. Once you do, ask them how they feel. You may find out something you didn't know about them.

For a list of resources please contact us at [ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com](mailto:ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com).

Written by Andrea Marwah, IL Hands & Voices Board President.

**CHOICES for Parents**

### READ Kits

<b>Animals Kit:</b> <u>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?</u> <u>First 100 Animals</u>	<b>Bedtime Kit:</b> <u>Good Night Moon</u> <u>Bedtime</u>	<b>Peek a Boo Kit:</b> <u>Peek-a-Who?</u> <u>Peek-a-Zoo!</u>	<b>My Body Kit:</b> <u>From Head to Toe</u> <u>Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes</u>
<b>Doctor Kit:</b> <u>First Time Doctor</u> <u>If I Were a Doctor</u>	<b>Food Kit:</b> <u>Mealtime</u> <u>Eating the Rainbow</u>	<b>Spot the Dog Kit:</b> <u>Where's Spot?</u> <u>Spot Goes to the Park</u>	<b>Transportation Kit:</b> <u>My First Things that Go</u> <u>DK Things that Go</u>

Interested in borrowing a READ Kit? Go to [www.CHOICESforParents.org/literacy](http://www.CHOICESforParents.org/literacy) for a check out form!

**amazon.com Smile**

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Illinois Families For Hands & Voices** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
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AmazonSmile, an automatic way for customers to support their favorite charities

Welcome to **amazon smile**

*Do you or your child have something to share? A new adventure or an accomplishment? They can be a part of our next newsletter! Stories can be submitted to [ilhvgbys@gmail.com](mailto:ilhvgbys@gmail.com)*

Guide By Your Side is the result of a collaborative effort between the following: IL Hands & Voices and the IL Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program.



# Does your young child have severe-to-profound vision or hearing loss? They might be eligible to participate in word-learning research with Duke CHILD Studies!

## Children with Visual Impairment



Baby wears an audio recorder inside a soft vest for one day to study the home language environment

### WHAT does the study involve?

- Online surveys about your child’s language and development
  - Compensation for surveys: \$20
- *Optional*: one day-long home recording where your child wears an audio recording device designed for child language research.
  - Compensation for survey & recording: \$55

The lab would arrange for pickup and drop off of the recorder and vest and would not be present for the day of recording.

## Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing who can hear at a conversational volume with language technology (i.e. CIs, HAs)



Eye tracking is used to study word comprehension in the lab

### WHAT does the study involve?

- Online surveys about your child’s language and development
  - Compensation for surveys: \$20
- *Optional*: one 45-minute visit to the Bergelson Lab on Duke’s West Campus for an eye-tracking study on spoken word understanding
  - Compensation for survey and lab visit: \$40

The lab provides free parking during your visit and can provide babysitting for siblings during the brief eyetracking study.

## WHY should you participate?

This study will help researchers understand more about how infants and toddlers with sensory impairments learn language.

All children will receive a commemorative gift for their participation.

To find out more please call the Bergelson Lab at (919) 684-9429 or email [erin.e.campbell@duke.edu](mailto:erin.e.campbell@duke.edu)  
This research is conducted by Dr. Erika Bergelson, in Duke’s Psychology & Neuroscience Department



ILLINOIS  
HANDS &  
VOICES



LEARN

## Why join IL Hands & Voices?

- \*Free or discounted entry to our Family Fun events
- \*Quarterly "Communicator" newspaper
- \*NEW Closed Facebook group exclusively for IL H&V Members

<https://ilhandsandvoices.wordpress.com/membership/>

CONNECT

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