



“What rights do I have while guiding my child’s early education journey?”

12 KEY RIGHTS

A Parent’s Overview to Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Early Intervention

This is a resource tool to help new families work with someone experienced in the field.

1



Timely & Coordinated

My child enters Early Intervention as soon as possible after hearing loss is confirmed. Our team has service providers that are communicating with each other.

2



Service Coordinators with Specialized Knowledge

Make sure that the person in charge of our Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is trained to coordinate services for children who are DHH.

3



Qualified E.I. Providers

Make sure that our family and our child have qualified providers with extensive experience, no matter what communication approach is used.

4



Children with Additional Disabilities

Make sure communication and language development are included from the start in my family’s services.

5



Culturally Diverse Backgrounds

Providers are sensitive to the diverse needs of our family and experienced in meeting those needs.

6



Progress Monitoring Every 6 Months

Designed to make sure that the intervention is working for my child. Developmental skills must be measured by a DHH professional.

7



Audiology Monitoring

Consistent and frequent. Making sure my deaf or hard of hearing child doesn’t “fall through the cracks.”

8



Families encouraged to participate at the local or state level.

My experience as a parent is valuable and important in shaping services delivery for other families.

9



Access to Community

Structured and casual opportunities for our family to connect with other DHH families and support each other.

10



Meaningful Roles for DHH Individuals

Adults who are DHH play an important role in shaping services for families and making systems better.

11



Support, Mentorship, & Guidance

Access to support and encouragement from DHH individuals for our DHH child and our family.

12



Best Practices applied to Intervention

Our DHH child deserves the highest quality services and resources so they can reach their fullest potential.

Scan Here



READ THE FULL FAMILY FRIENDLY DOCUMENT

Connect with a

Parent Guide Today to Learn More

This overview was compiled from “A Parent’s Guide to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Early Intervention Recommendations”, 2017. Developed by the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Parent to Parent Committee. The Supplement to the JCIH 2007 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Intervention after Confirmation That a Child is Deaf or Hard of Hearing can be found here: <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/131/4/e1324>



WASHINGTON STATE
HANDS & VOICES™



80,932

**Number of Babies Born
in 2023**

Number of babies born in Washington State according to March of Dimes.



~170

**Number of Babies Born
with Hearing Differences**

Each year approximately 170 infants in WA state are identified with hearing differences according to EHDDI



95%

**Of Families Have No Prior
Knowledge of Deafness**

National statistics report that 95% of babies identified with hearing differences are born to families with no prior understanding or knowledge of Deafness.

“This is all new. I’m unsure.”

We are here to help. Allow a Parent Guide to come alongside you.

Who are we?



WASHINGTON STATE
**HANDS &
VOICES™**

We are Washington State Hands & Voices.

As a parent-driven organization we understand first-hand the value that comes with learning up to date information, having guidance by experienced parents, and making connections with other families and community members regardless of communication mode. Our Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program matches new families with one-on-one trained parents called, Parent Guides.



What is Guide By Your Side?

Guide By Your Side provides unbiased emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families of children with hearing loss.

Guide By Your Side Program Provides:

- A Parent Guide to listen and share resources.
- Validation and empowerment.
- Compassion and knowledge from parents who have a child that is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- Information, support, and tools to navigate challenging systems.

Scan Here
**TO CONNECT WITH
A PARENT GUIDE**



**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™**



wahandsandvoices.org | 425-268-7087 | gbys@wahandsandvoices.org