



HANDS & VOICES™ ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS E.A.R.S

E.A.R.S = EVENTS AND RESOURCES STATEWIDE



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™ ILLINOIS

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

WHO ARE WE?

The Illinois Families for Hands & Voices mission: A parent-driven, non-profit organization that supports families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodologies.

The Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side mission: Provides free, unbiased emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

If you are looking for resources, parent support, events or anything else, we want to help! View our contact information on page 22.



THE JOYS OF RAISING DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Family Tip Sheet



TIPS

Fostering Joy is a family/professional effort celebrating the joy of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). Fostering Joy provides resources for families and professionals to support the growth and development of a child who is D/HH.

Loving and supportive families provide a strong base for social and emotional health and well-being. **Page 11 | Fostering Joy**

- Find something to be grateful for everyday.
- Carve out a few minutes each day to breathe deeply, enjoy a laugh, and snuggle closely with your child.
- See the world through your child's eyes - notice the wonder, excitement, and love!
- Share something with your child that made you smile, felt like a success, and renewed your hope.
- Seek balance and refreshment: take a walk together in nature, do "baby yoga", or read a fun book together.
- Connect an appointment or therapy session with a treat or adventure.
- Trust that making space to foster joy will



Summer Fun & Learning by Andrea Marwah, IL Chapter Executive Director

What is your first thought when you think of summer break? "Finally, no homework"; "I can finally sleep in"; or maybe "How can I extend their learning during this long break?". Summer should be all about fun! How can you sneak in some learning by making it so much fun that they don't even realize they are learning? Summer learning activities can extend through all the ages and stages. I searched the web, so you don't have to.

Page 8 | Summer Fun

Children 101 has a list of 101 Fun ways to Keep Kids Learning All Summer Long. From writing a poem, reading to a sibling to drawing a self-portrait. All great ways to keep both sides of the brain engaged.



Family Picnic
July 29, 2023 — 11:00AM to 2:00PM
<https://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/family-fun-picnic>

COME JOIN US
Page 15 | Family Picnic

- Pack a picnic blanket
- Bring the whole gang
- Be ready for fun!

REGISTER

Parent Guides

Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side
Providing unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families children who are deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh)

Parent-to-parent support allows families to:

- Learn about the needs of a child who is d/hh
- Have a safe place to process and act on information
- Hear about resources in a supportive environment

In addition, the guidance and friendship of another parent who has experienced similar emotions, events and responsibilities often allows families to feel more at ease coming to an understanding that everything is going okay.

The IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (ILHV GBY) program works one-on-one with families, matching a Parent Guide with each family. The Parent Guide spends time with the family to discuss concerns, needs and share knowledge gained from their personal journey of raising a child who is d/hh.

We are extremely interested in applicants with prior experience of a child with: unilateral hearing loss, neuropathy, CMV and/or cochlear implant use. Bill parents are also encouraged to apply!

Learn more

June 12
On this day we will host a webinar at 8p to explain more about the ILHV GBY'S program and answer questions. To RSVP and receive the zoom link please contact Carrie Ballew.

Applications Due

June 16
June 16th is the last day to apply. You can find the link to the application! <https://forms.office.com/r/1822619c29mna333e>

Now Hiring

The QR code shown here is a direct link to application. Please note that you need to set aside time to complete the application as it won't allow you to save and return to complete it.

For more information email: ilhv@handsandvoices.org or call 618-343-1873

Page 4-5 | Now Hiring



enjoy
every
moment.

Dear Readers,

I don't know about you, but I feel like I'm running to keep up with time! How is it summertime already? You probably hear this phrase all the time, "cherish these moments because they go by quickly". Well, I can relate!

I remember, when our oldest was little (he's our child who was born deaf) and I would drive 1.5 hours one way to get him to school, stuck in bumper to bumper traffic. It truly stole my joy, but I remember telling myself that this will soon be a distant memory. That is what got me through those days.

I am so grateful for the pep talks I gave myself to keep going, to trust my gut and to sometimes just "call it a day"! See, my little boy is soon to be 23. Time goes too fast, he no longer sneaks into our bed and I'm not stressing about doing therapy homework with him. Sure, there is always some stress as a parent, but it shifts as our life moves on.

So, my advice to you is to soak it all in and look for the joy. It's there, it may be hard to see on some days, but if you look it will soon stand out. I want you to know that finding joy is so important not only for your child and your family, but for you as well.

Please take time to read over our Fostering Joy tips on page 11 and stay tuned for more Fostering Joy opportunities and information over the year!

With a joyful heart,

Carrie Balian
Parent of a son who is DHH
ILHV GBYS Coordinator
HV Region V Coordinator
HV GBYS Program Lead

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Now Hiring Parent Guides



HANDS &
VOICES™
ILLINOIS

Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side

Providing unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who are deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh).



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™
ILLINOIS

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Learn more

June
12

On this day we will host a webinar at 8pm CST to explain more about the ILHV GBYS program and answer questions. To RSVP and receive the zoom link please contact Carrie Balian.

Applications Due

June
16

June 16th is the last day to apply. You can find the link to the application here: <https://fs4.formsite.com/rh1RZR/iqn23mtta3/index.html>

New hires must be available to attend in person training held Oct 1-3 in Grand Rapids, MI



The QR Code shown here is a direct link to the application.

Please note that you need to set aside time to complete the application as it won't allow you to save and return to complete it.

For more information email: ilhvgbys@gmail.com

Call/text Carrie Balian: 224-343-1873

D/HH Hiring Now

Guides



HANDS &
VOICES™
ILLINOIS

Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side

Providing unbiased, emotional support and a unique perspective from trained D/HH Guides to families with D/HH children



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™
ILLINOIS

D/HH Guides provide:

- Personal perspectives and insight of the D/HH journey
- Improvements and influence within the systems designed to serve families
- A safe place in which parents, children, and professionals can ask questions about the D/HH journey
- Connect parents to services, products, and resources relevant to their family

The D/HH Guides will work alongside Parent Guides to share their unique life experiences, use of technology, how they navigate social situations, how they developed their personal identity, etc. They will also facilitate virtual group discussions.

Our goal is a diverse team of D/HH Guides with possible experience and knowledge of:

- Different technology
- Various communication modes

Applicants must have a home base in Illinois, be 18 or older and agree with the Hands & Voices mission of "What works for your child is what makes the choice right."

Learn more

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Call/text Carrie Balian: 224-343-1873

EHDI 2023

In March, a group of IL Hands & Voices Board Members, Parent Guides and IL EHDI staff attended the EHDI conference in Cincinnati, OH. Our team represented Illinois well with 11 presentations/posters!

In addition to attending three jam-packed days of learning we spent time together at dinner, sightseeing at the purple people bridge and of course topping it off with delicious dessert from Graeters, an Ohio staple!

Opportunities like this are made possible through our grant funding and allow our team to continue to receive professional development while networking with others within our field.



2023 EHDI Innovators

The IL H&V GBYS and Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) programs partnered to recognize those in the field who are making an impact within the EHDI goals of 1-3-6.



These goals ensure babies have their hearing screened by 1 month of age, receive a diagnostic hearing evaluation no later than 3 months of age and that all infants with hearing loss enroll in Early Intervention no later than 6 months of age.

In 2023, we had the pleasure of recognizing Tracy Meehan, Maribeth Lartz, Kelley Hemesath, Maira Nava and the HiTrack team facilitated by James Fritzler for their ability to create change and improvement within these benchmarks.



Parent Achievement Award

Since 2011 Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side has been recognizing parents with children who are DHH who go above and beyond in serving other families.

The award is meant to encourage parents, inspire them to see that they have something unique to offer and they are fully able to make a difference within families and the systems that serve us.

Professionals, peers and family have sent in nominations over the years. Once nominations close then those nominated go up for online voting to determine the final selection.

This year we had two nominees, Anita Cervantes-Bowen and Lydia Hernandez. During Mom's Night Inn we officially recognized Anita as the 2023 Parent Achievement Award recipient!

Anita has been a Lead Parent Guide with IL GBYS since 2012, she is an IL Hands & Voices board member, Director of Illinois Deaf Campers, mother of four children and so many other fabulous things!

As a deaf individual herself, Anita truly embodies the spirit of working together for the benefit of all our families. She also has been a bridge between other deaf parents helping them understand services, opportunities and providing them unbiased support. Anita's journey as a parent has had unmeasurable heartache as her two sons passed away over the years, but in spite of the dark days Anita continues to shine bright!





Summer Fun & Learning by Andrea Marwah, IL Chapter Executive Director

What is your first thought when you think of summer break? “Finally, no homework”; “I can finally sleep in”; or maybe “How can I extend their learning during this long break?”. Summer should be all about fun! How can you sneak in some learning by making it so much fun that they don’t even realize they are learning? Summer learning activities can extend through all the ages and stages. I searched the web, so you don’t have to.

Childhood 101 has a list of 101 “Fun Ways to Keep Kids Learning All Summer Long’. From writing a poem, reading to a sibling to drawing a self-portrait. All great ways to keep both sides of the brain active this summer. They also have a very cool social emotional activity journal you can print. Check them out on their website:



Education World provides “25 Activities to Keep Kids’ Brains Active in Summer”. From creating musical instruments from things found around the house to creating a notebook to make a cartoon flip book, I remember those well. Check out their website.

Does your kid love science? *Steamsational* has some great summer activity ideas that are simple and hands on. Turn a nature walk into a science discovery zone or how to make cream into butter, now that is fun and educational. Many more activities can be found on their website:



Looking to gain more sign language skills? Borrow signing books from the ISRC Library at www.isrc.us or utilize some online tools such as www.infantheating.org/signit/, www.lifeprint.com, or www.handspeak.com.

The National Cued Speech Association www.cuedspeech.org can provide resources to learn Cued Speech or try CueCollege www.cuedspeech.org.

Working on some listening and spoken language? Try Sunshine Cottage www.sunshinecottage.org or the Listening Foundation www.listeningfoundation.org. Don’t forget a.g. bell www.agbell.org for resources and tools to continue learning over the summer.

There are so many different things you can do with your child. Take advantage of your local park district and remember that our kids are protected, and it is required that park districts provide access. Contact your local park district to get connected with their special recreation department.

Simply google Summer Family Activities and you will have TONS of ideas by the end of your net surfing session.

At the end of the day, HAVE FUN!! Enjoy your summer family time. Consider writing an article for this newsletter about a great adventure your family had, others would love to hear about it. Don’t forget to join us at the summer picnic in Frankfort on July 29th, visit our website for specifics and registration: www.ilhandsandvoices.org/events.






DID YOU KNOW:

We provide outreach and education to providers who serve families with children who are DHH.

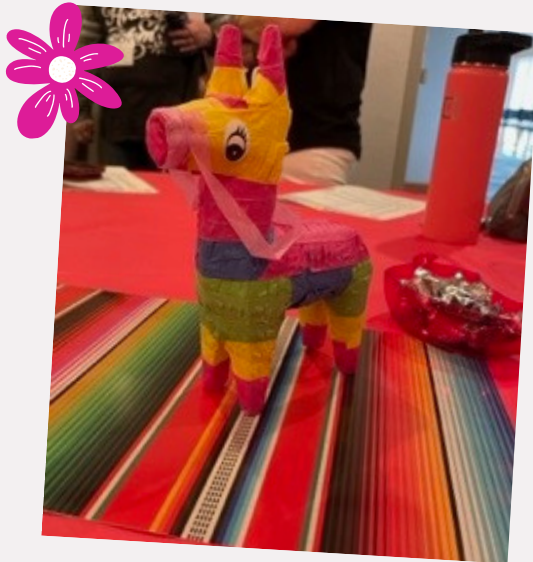
The 59th Annual Illinois Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ITDHH) Conference, The One Where We Collaborate, took place in early March. The main purpose of ITDHH is to provide information and support to teachers and other organizations related to the field of Deafness. Topics included implicit bias, audiograms, cochlear implant and hearing aid accessories, and augmented communication. The conference was hybrid, held in person with recorded presentations. Several members of Illinois Hands and Voices board and Guide By Your Side team presented on topics including self advocacy, parent perspectives, socialization, and parent support.

In addition to members of our team attending, presenting and overseeing our exhibit booth we also presented 4 of the 5 EHDI Innovator awards during the luncheon (see page 6)!



MOM'S NIGHT INN 2023

What do you get when you bring together amazing moms who have children with hearing loss? You get one of the best days of the year- Mom's Night Inn! Our event took place at the Hilton Garden Inn in Warrenton on April 29, 2023 with a fun fiesta theme. Moms were introduced to Hands & Voices Fostering Joy, which is an effort designed to celebrate the joy of raising children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Each participant took home a Fostering Joy journal to begin implementing this important movement with their own families. Our keynote speaker, Kari Taylor, shared her experiences growing up as a child with hearing loss. Our evening activities included a Fiesta Taco Bar for dinner, crafts, and chair massages. The moms enjoyed spending time together and making connections with friends new and old. Our program concluded Sunday morning after having the opportunity to hear the stories of moms who have children with hearing loss from ages 18 to 30's. Mom's Night Inn is truly a one of a kind special event!





THE JOYS OF RAISING DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Family Tip Sheet



HANDS &
VOICES™

TIPS

Fostering Joy is a family/professional effort celebrating the joy of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). Fostering Joy provides resources for families and professionals to support the growth and development of a child who is D/HH.

Loving and supportive families provide a strong base for social and emotional health and well-being. Focusing on special moments that bring joy helps families put aside concerns and focus on their natural and loving parent-child connections.

Taking short breaks from the stresses of everyday life helps families explore and appreciate the joyful moments that come with raising their children. Here are a few tips, offered by families, for finding joy everyday - taking time to celebrate milestones, connecting with your children, and letting the lights of their love shine through.

- Find something to be grateful for everyday.
- Carve out a few minutes each day to breathe deeply, enjoy a laugh, and snuggle closely with your child.
- See the world through your child's eyes - notice the wonder, excitement, and love!
- Share something with your child that made you smile, felt like a success, and renewed your hope.
- Seek balance and refreshment: take a walk together in nature, do "baby yoga", or read a fun book together.
- Connect an appointment or therapy session with a treat or adventure.
- Trust that making space to foster joy will lead to increased learning and deeper connections for you and your child.
- Document your family's journey together through pictures, video, social media, or journaling. (A few short sentences will do!)
- Take time regularly to revisit your child's and family's history and reflect on just how far you've come.
- Set aside your "to do" list and do something you love with your child - take a walk, blow bubbles, cook together, play peek-a-boo, dance.
- **Appreciate yourself and all you are doing to support and advocate for your child!**



Parent Tip Sheet

Early Literacy Development

Literacy is the ability to read and write. You can help your child develop the skills he or she needs for later reading when reading storybooks, interacting with print, and associating sounds/fingerspelling in his or her environment. Building these skills early will help your child start school ready to learn to read!

Long before your child is taught to read in school, he or she starts developing the skills necessary for later reading. For your child to eventually read, strong language skills, basic knowledge about print, and an awareness of how words are made up of sounds/fingerspelled letters are needed.

There are many ways that literacy development in Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) children is similar to that in hearing children. However, D/HH children may be at a higher risk for experiencing delays or having greater difficulty learning to read. Here are some activities you can use with your child to promote early literacy development!



- ✓ Share books as early and as often as you can.
- ✓ Tell stories and invite your child to tell you stories. Example: "What happened at school today?" Start with a shared experience to help develop storytelling.
- ✓ Point out signs, e.g., McDonald's. Play games identifying the signs that you see. This is really early reading!
- ✓ In your community, look for signs that are familiar to your child. Point out the letters and words you see on the signs.
- ✓ Associate sounds/fingerspelling with letters as early as possible.
- ✓ Label everything in your home with words, pictures and/or signs.
- ✓ Play games with words starting or ending with a certain sound or fingerspelled letter.
- ✓ Sing songs and teach nursery rhymes to your child.
- ✓ Look at your child while reading, make sure the child sees the signing, the words and the pictures.
- ✓ Play games where you connect a picture/visual with a word.



*Share these with your Early Intervention providers/parent to parent support providers who have experience with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and discuss ideas on how to implement these tips with your child. <https://handsandvoices.org/fl3/topics/tipsheets.html>

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U01MC30748-01-00 for Family Leadership In Language And Learning for \$1,500,00.00 This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



 www.illinoissoundbeginnings.org

Check It Out!!

Illinois Sound Beginnings has a NEW LOOK!!!

Illinois EHD

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Everything you need to know about hearing screening, diagnostics to intervention and beyond.



Illinois EHD Program
at Illinois Department of Public Health
Phone: [217-782-4733](tel:217-782-4733)
Email: DPH.newbornhearing@illinois.gov



Get paid for your input!



We need Illinois parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing to help review parent materials



Review meetings will be held in the evening and some work will be done on your own beforehand.

Only 6 participants needed per session, 3 hours a month, 3 consecutive month commitment.

We are looking to host multiple review committees over the next year. Selection is ongoing, and we will keep all submissions on file to potentially contact for a committee at a later date.



Scan the QR code. It will take you to the google form with more information and to submit your name as a potential participant.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

As part of tasks related to our grant funding for ILHV GBYS, we have started a quality improvement (QI) project by establishing parent workgroups. Our first QI workgroup consisted of five parents, our GBYS program coordinator, and a Parent Guide. This group met monthly during the first quarter of the year. For each meeting, the parents were assigned documents used in the GBYS program to review and provide honest feedback on. We received great, thoughtful feedback on the documents, including everything from the design to the content to the links provided for additional information. Our goal for creating each parent group is for it to be made up of parents with a variety of diverse cultural, geographic, linguistic, etc. backgrounds as well as those with children of various ages and type/level of hearing differences.

We plan to continue this QI project and are looking for parents who are willing to participate. The monthly time commitment is 1.5 hours of material review and 1.5 hours on Zoom sharing feedback, and parents are paid for this time. Groups typically meet once a month for three months on Thursday evenings, but can shift based on the group members' common availability. If you are interested, please use the QR code above to apply.

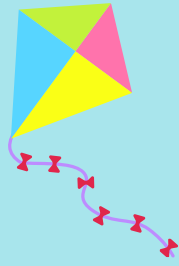
We are looking to host two specific QI sessions this year. For these meetings, we are seeking participants who are African American/Black and Latinx/Mexican to provide recommendations and brainstorm with us how we can reach and support more families within these specific communities.



[African American / Black Registration Link](#)



[Latinx Registration Link](#)



IL HANDS & VOICES GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

Family Picnic

July 29, 2023 — 11:00AM to 2:00PM

<https://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/family-fun-picnic>



COME JOIN US

Frankfort, Illinois



- Pack a lunch
- Pack a picnic blanket
- Bring the whole gang
- Be ready for fun

*We will provide dessert and fun games.
ADA requests must be made 2 weeks prior to the event*

**REGISTER
TODAY:**



<https://forms.office.com/r/ZEDbwPkfzA>

Illinois Families for Hands & Voices
501c3 Non-Profit | EIN: 07-1624201
PO Box 9366, Naperville IL 60567
<https://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/>



HANDS & VOICES ILLINOIS

7:00 - 8:00 PM CST
1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Please join us on an informal Zoom meeting to get to know other families with children who have a hearing loss from across the state of Illinois.

PLEASE REGISTER AT THIS LINK
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/XM4WZP1MEBXCUPKF6](https://forms.gle/XM4WZP1MEBXCUPKF6), OR
 USE THE CAMERA OF YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE REGISTRATION LINK.
 A ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT TO YOU 24 HOURS BEFORE THE EVENT.



THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY OUR ILLINOIS HANDS & VOICES GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE PROGRAM. ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE A CHILD THAT HAS ANY TYPE OR DEGREE OF HEARING LOSS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THIS EVENT.

"WHAT WORKS FOR YOUR CHILD IS WHAT MAKES THE CHOICE RIGHT."®



GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE ILLINOIS

WE WANT YOU!

Have you wondered how you can help other families with children who are deaf/hard of hearing? Maybe you want to help plan events for families to gather? Serving as an Illinois Hands & Voices Board member is a wonderful way to connect with other like-minded individuals while helping others. The board is looking for professionals, parents and deaf adults. Contact Andrea Johnson, Board President if you are interested or want to learn more:
andrea.johnson@ilhandsandvoices.com



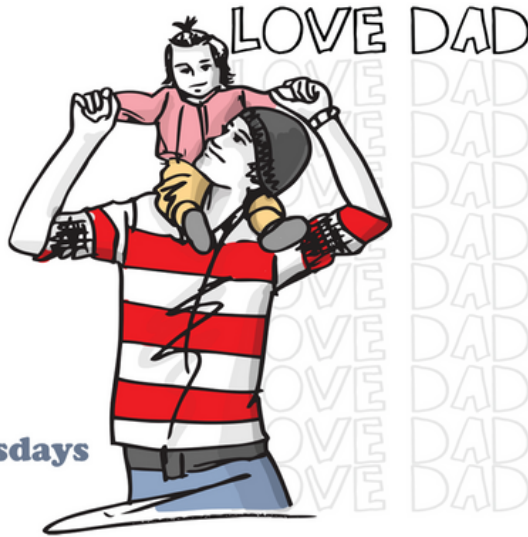
H&V Annual Leadership Conference

SAVE THE DATE
OCT 1-3, 2023

From Why to How: Dive In!
Grand Rapids, MI

DADS MEETING OTHER DADS

On the Following Wednesdays
8:00PM — 9:00PM



- December 14
- January 25
- February 22
- March 22
- April 26
- May 24
- June 28

Join us for an informal Zoom meeting to get to meet other dads of children who are deaf/hard of hearing across Illinois.

All dads or father figures of children who are deaf/hard of hearing are welcome to join this safe space to talk about you and your kids.

REGISTER TODAY:



<https://fs4.formsite.com/rh1RZR/q2oivmj8ux/index.html>

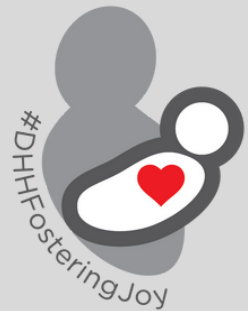
You must register to receive a zoom link to attend the event.
ADA requests must be made within 1 week of the event,
don't delay — register today!



Illinois Hands & Voices is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization EIN 06-1724201
"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™



A Movement to Celebrate the Magic of Raising Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Throughout the next year ILHV GBYS will be providing presentations and trainings to parents and professionals on Fostering Joy.

Fostering Joy provides support and resources for families and professionals to positively help the growth and development of a child who is D/HH.

For more information please contact ilhvgbys@gmail.com.



FHSR

Foundation for Hearing and Speech Resources



Music To My Ears Scholarship

FHSR celebrates the joy of music and the power of hearing by offering Music Scholarships for deaf and hard of hearing children in the Chicagoland area

This program provides a year of tuition-free music classes for DHH children Ages 0-4 for music enrichment and instrument classes for 4-16 at our partner schools

- MERIT SCHOOL OF MUSIC - CHICAGO
- OLD TOWN SCHOOL OF FOLK MUSIC - CHICAGO
- MUSIC MAKERS OF WESTERN SPRINGS
- COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - WHEATON
- MUSIC & MOVEMENT - GLENVIEW
- ENCORE MUSIC ACADEMY - CRYSTAL LAKE
- SCHOOL OF ROCK - OAK PARK & NORTHBROOK



For more information and to apply for a scholarship visit

fhsr.org





2023
**Early Intervention
 Vision & Hearing
 Conference**

FREE

Conference for professionals working with infants, toddlers and children who have hearing and/or vision concerns and their families

WHEN:

Monday, June 26 - 8:30^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}
 Tuesday, June 27 - 8:30^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}

WHERE:

IL State University Alumni Center
 1101 N. Main Street
 Normal, IL 61761

COMBINED TOPICS:

- Dual Diagnosis with Autism
- CHARGE Syndrome
- Abuse in the Home
- Communication Matrix
- Fostering Joy
- Communication Science Today

HEARING TOPICS:

- Early Listening in the Home
- Deaf Mentor Program
- Working Group

VISION TOPICS:

- Babies Count
- Early Literacy
- Working Group

QUESTIONS:

Andrea.marwah@illinois.gov
 630-697-3544

HOTEL ROOM BLOCK:

Courtyard Marriot Bloomington/Normal \$124 REGISTER HERE Must book by May 26	Holiday Inn Bloomington/Normal \$129 REGISTER HERE Must book by May 26
--	--

REGISTER TODAY:



<https://forms.office.com/g/RWiK8PrK27>

EI & PD CREDIT:

EI Credit applied for. ISBE PD Credit Approved.
 Credit Information will be updated and available on the EITP Website <https://eitp.education.illinois.edu/>.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS:

ADA requests must be received at least 3 weeks prior to the event date, the committee will do their best to grant reasonable requests.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach
 Illinois School for the Visually Impaired
 Project Reach
 Illinois Service Resource Center
 Illinois Early Intervention Providers
 ISU LIMITLESS grant #H325K190003
 U.S. Dept of Education

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES IN EARLY INTERVENTION

THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF EARLY INTERVENTION IS HOSTING FOUR VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS WITH FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN EARLY INTERVENTION. DURING THIS TIME, YOU CAN SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES, ASK QUESTIONS, AND VOICE YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE EARLY INTERVENTION.

MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, February 7, 2023
 - 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- Tuesday, May 2, 2023
 - 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Wednesday, September 6, 2023
 - 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- Thursday, November 9, 2023
 - 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

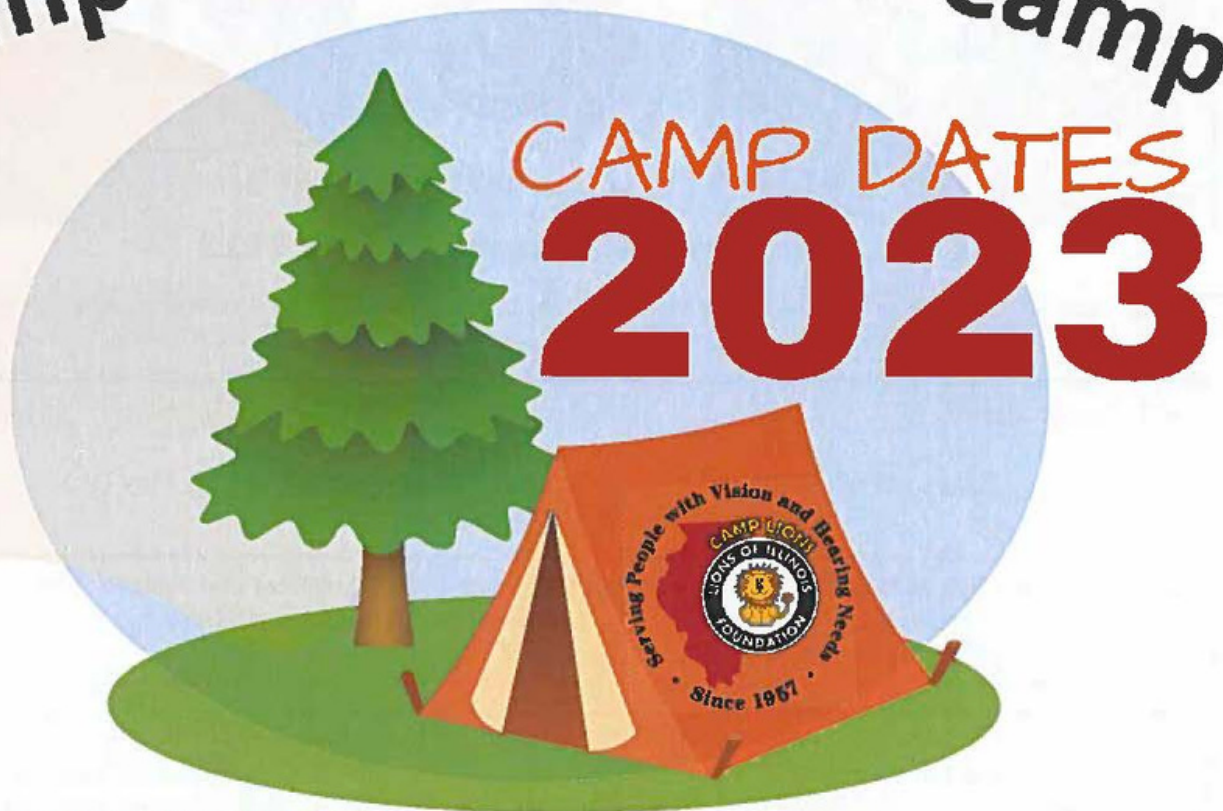
TO REGISTER FOR THE TOWN HALL MEETING, CONTACT MEGHAN BURKE AT MEGHANBM@ILLINOIS.EDU OR 217-300-1226



Illinois

Early Intervention Clearinghouse OR 217-300-1226

Camp Lions Summer Camp



JUNE 25th-JULY 1st

Youth Week

Red Leaf Village Camp

(Formerly known as Henry Horner)

26710 W Nippersink Rd, Ingleside, IL 60041

JULY 2nd-JULY 8th

Helen Keller Week

Red Leaf Village Camp

(Formerly known as Henry Horner)

26710 W. Nippersink Rd, Ingleside, IL 60041

JULY 16th-JULY 22nd

HoH/Deaf Week

East Bay Camp

24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson, IL 61748

JULY 23rd-JULY 29th

LV/Blind Week

East Bay Camp

24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson, IL 61748

JULY 30th-AUGUST 5th

Youth Week

Camp Dubois Center

2651 Quarry Road, DuBois, IL 62831

VISIT US AT
LIONSOFILLINOISFOUNDATION.ORG



Camp Lions Summer Camps 2023

Eligible campers for Youth camps must be between the ages of 7-17 years old, at the start of camp and have visual acuity range of total blindness or a vision loss of 20/70 in both eyes after best correction and/or a hearing loss which requires daily use of communication alternatives such as sign language, lip reading and/or use of a hearing aid, cochlear implant, or similar auditory device.

Applications will need to be filled out in full and received by **May 1st** to receive your FREE Camp Lions T-Shirt.

June 25, 2023 to July 1, 2023: For **Low Vision/Blind-HoH/Deaf Youth 7-17yrs Camp Red Leaf** (formerly known as Henry Horner) **Ingleside, IL** Offers canoeing, archery, nature, crafts, cookouts around the fire, a dance and so much fun it's hard to imagine. Top it off with a pool party and camp talent show and you have it all!

July 2, 2023 to July 8, 2023: For **Low-Vision/Blind-HoH/Deaf Adults 18 & older Camp Red Leaf** (formerly known as Henry Horner) **Ingleside, IL** at **Camp Helen Keller:** Eligible adults have the opportunity to relax and participate in activities in the great outdoors while still being in an accessible environment. Camp Lions Helen Keller is a great place to meet other individuals with similar life experiences. Activities at Camp Lions Helen Keller are geared to adult participants. They include swimming, team sports, card and board games, arts and crafts, a talent show, even a dance. Fun activities make this an active camp!

July 16, 2023 to July 22, 2023: For **HoH/Deaf Youth 7-17yrs East Bay Camp Hudson, IL** This camp offers specially designed activities for youth who are Hard of Hearing/Deaf. The camp site has many activities to do! Such as, paddle boats, canoeing, archery, nature walks, crafts, cookouts around the fire, a dance, fun times at the beach and even heading to the pool. They end the camp week with a talent show. This camp is fun for all who attend!

July 23, 2023 to July 29, 2023: For **Low Vision/Blind Youth 7-17yrs East Bay Camp Hudson, IL** While many activities are identical to our other camps, this session highlights activities that accommodate youth who are Blind or have low vision. Our daily schedules, which are posted in large print and in braille, may list some of the following choices: swimming, beeper baseball, beeper archery, and crafts such as painting, beading, or small handmade items. Every day is different and perfect for the creative spirit. A beach party, dance, talent show, cookouts, songs around the campfire, pool swims, braille bingo & cards, plus a wide assortment of tactile games, described videos, and more will fill this week with fun! Every cabin is one level and has a modern bathroom with a walk-in shower. Our counselor to camper ratio is 1:4 to make Camp Lions a positive and safe experience.

July 30, 2023 to August 5, 2023: For **Low Vision/Blind-HoH/Deaf Youth 7-17yrs Camp DuBois Center DuBois, IL** At this campsite there are many activities to do, such as, water sports, fishing, teams courses, ga-ga ball, basketball, beeper baseball, archery, horseback riding, swimming, boating, water mat, arts & crafts, cookouts with s' mores and talent night to top it off! Plus time to relax and talk with new friends under the shade of a tree.

Visit our website at lionsofillinoisfoundation.org for more information about our summer camps for Low Vision/Blind-HoH/Deaf Youth and Adults. Or email us at camplions@lifnd.org visit our FB page [Facebook.com/CampLionsIL](https://www.facebook.com/CampLionsIL)

Adult and Youth Campers please use our website online registration form.

ACRONYMS

HERE ARE SOME ACRONYMS THAT YOU MAY SEE THROUGHOUT THIS NEWSLETTER OR IN INFORMATION ONLINE

1-3-6 - Hearing screened by 1 months of age, Diagnostic testing by 3 months of age, and enrolled in Early Intervention and parent support by 6 months of age

AAP - American Academy of Pediatrics

ADA - Americans With Disabilities Act

ASL - American Sign Language

CMV - Cytomegalovirus

DBA - Doing Business as Agreement

DEI - Diversity & Equity Infusion

DHH - Deaf Hard of Hearing

EHDI - Early Hearing Detection & Intervention

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IDPH - Illinois Department of Public Health

IEP - Individualized Education Program

ILHV - Illinois Hands & Voices

ISRC - Illinois Service Resource Center

GBYS - Guide By Your Side

JCIH - Joint Committee on Infant Hearing

LTF - Lost to Follow-up

L2L - Leadership to Leadership

NCHAM - National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

PG - Parent Guides (parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing)

SNIPPET - Simple N Informative Parent-to-Parent Education Tools

Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side does not support or endorse any specific organization, communication or amplification choice.

The information in this newsletter is to simply share with families and professionals the resources and events available to them.

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**ILHV GBYS and IL EHDI work together on many initiatives
and call themselves The IL Sound Beginnings Team**