



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

Save the Date

- Family Event...February 8
- Family Event....February 23
- EHDI meeting....March 8-10
- Mom's Night Inn....April 25-26
- Family Event....May 2nd
- Advocacy Class....May 16
- National Parks trip...May 22-25
- SuperHEARo 5k....May 30
- Preschool Institute....June 7-12
- Camp Lions....starting June 21



Illinois Hands & Voices (H&V)

President Contact:
Andrea Marwah
Phone: (630) 697-3544
Email:
ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com
Web:
www.ilhandsandvoices.org

Illinois E.A.R.S

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

Journey of my Dreams

Many of us on our parenting journey didn't have all the information and tools at our fingertips when we started our path raising children who are deaf and hard of hearing. But somehow and at some point we found our way, made connections, found assistance and support and then may of even felt drawn to serve others who were embarking down the same road. I know for me that was a key driving point for leading our state Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program.

When our state was considering parent to parent support you can bet I made time for those meetings and gave my suggestions because I was determined to see the program embark and succeed. So, naturally when the conversation led to the two options of do we invest in a national model or create our own I pushed for them to pursue in investing in the Hands & Voices GBYS program. Here we are celebrating our ten-year anniversary this past year and I am so proud of our program and thankful for those that helped make this program a reality for Illinois.

The national GBYS program continues to grow and strengthen numerous leaders by offering ongoing educational opportunities, connections via social media, resources within the national website, technical assistance points of contact, a "Guide's Guide" manual, the ability for leaders to come together to share success and work through challenges and the capacity for programs to request from each other resources or materials to unique situations or specific languages. These are some of the many perks of being connected to a national model. We don't have to re-invent the wheel! Instead we can collaborate, learn and grow together. I am so grateful for the leaders I get to share this journey with.

Over the past 10 years our IL GBYS program has developed over 40 guides, served over 750 families, participated in over 100 team trainings and provided over 300 outreach opportunities all while being an "opt in" program. Meaning we don't receive referrals directly from any one point of contact from the state. We worked hard to get our name out, provide events and make connections so that others

(Continued on page 20)



HANDS &
VOICES™
ILLINOIS

If you are passionate about helping support families in Illinois who have children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, this is your opportunity. (2 year terms)

Use link below for more details and to apply.

<https://wp.me/pairl-1SN>

Questions?? Contact Andrea Marwah
ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com
630.697.3544 v/text

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



Parent ACHIEVEMENT Awards

Nominations due by March 13th, 2020

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Nominator Information:

☐ I am a parent

☐ I am a professional

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

☐ Please mark to certify that the individual you are nominating is a parent of a child with hearing loss.

Please complete all applicable areas below regarding your nominee. Use additional pages if necessary.

1. Community involvement: _____

2. Accomplishments: _____

3. Mentoring others: _____

4. Examples of leadership: _____

How long, to the best of your knowledge, has the nominee been serving others? _____

How long have you know the nominee? _____

Nominations will stay on file for two years for future consideration.

You can also complete your nomination online by going to this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2VCPNZS>

After we receive the nomination form, both the nominator and nominee will receive notification from Guide By

Your Side. All nominations are due by 3/13/20. Online voting will be open 3/23-3/30. The honoree will be notified before 4/3/20.

The award presentation will be on 4/26/20 during the Mom's Night Inn event at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle. The award recipient will also receive a complimentary registration if appropriate to Mom's Night Inn!

Questions?

Please call Guide By Your Side at

1.224.343.1873 or email

ilhvgbys@gmail.com.

Please mail the nomination form to:

Guide By Your Side

c/o Carrie Balian

917 Knightsbridge Dr

Island Lake, IL 60042

Nomination forms can also be sent
by email or fax.

Email: ilhvgbys@gmail.com

Fax: 1.866.695.3880

Illinois Hands & Voices Mom's Night Inn April 25-26, 2020 Sheraton Hotel Lisle/Naperville

WHAT IS MOM'S NIGHT INN?

- An overnight retreat for moms or female caregivers who are raising children of ALL ages who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- A place to meet and share experiences with other moms who are on a similar journey.
- Play games and laugh!
- Eat a hot dinner – SITTING DOWN!
- Get pampered with a manicure and chair massage.
- Listen to Key-Note speaker, the amazing Tina Childress.
- Eat CHOCOLATE/SUGAR!
- Eat a complimentary breakfast while SITTING DOWN!
- Sunday - Learn first-hand from a panel of people who have experienced a similar journey.



REGISTER TODAY!

Registration Rates

Members:

\$ 95 shared room
\$ 145 private room

Non-Members:

\$ 115 shared room
\$ 165 private room

*Scholarships are available,
contact us at:*

ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com


YOU DESERVE
SOME
"ME TIME"


Click or visit ilhandsandvoices.org/MNI
ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com 630-697-3544
IL Hands & Voices is a 501c3 – EIN 06-1724201





Come JUMP

with Illinois Hands & Voices

Saturday, May 2nd, 2020

12:30pm — 2:30pm

Includes pizza & soda for registered jumpers

Event held at

PUMPitUP

4995 Varsity Dr Unit A, Lisle, IL 60532

Pump it Up RULES

Socks required for all jumpers.

Children must be 34" tall to play on the inflatables at this facility.

Children who do not meet the height requirement may enter the facility, but are not permitted on the inflatables at all, not even with an adult.

Limited space available
RSVP Today

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

Members **FREE**

Non-Members \$10 per child

Questions? ADA Needs?

Contact Christen

330-715-7658

OR

ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com



HANDS &
VOICES™
ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS HANDS & VOICES

SuperHEARo Dash

5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, May 30, 2020

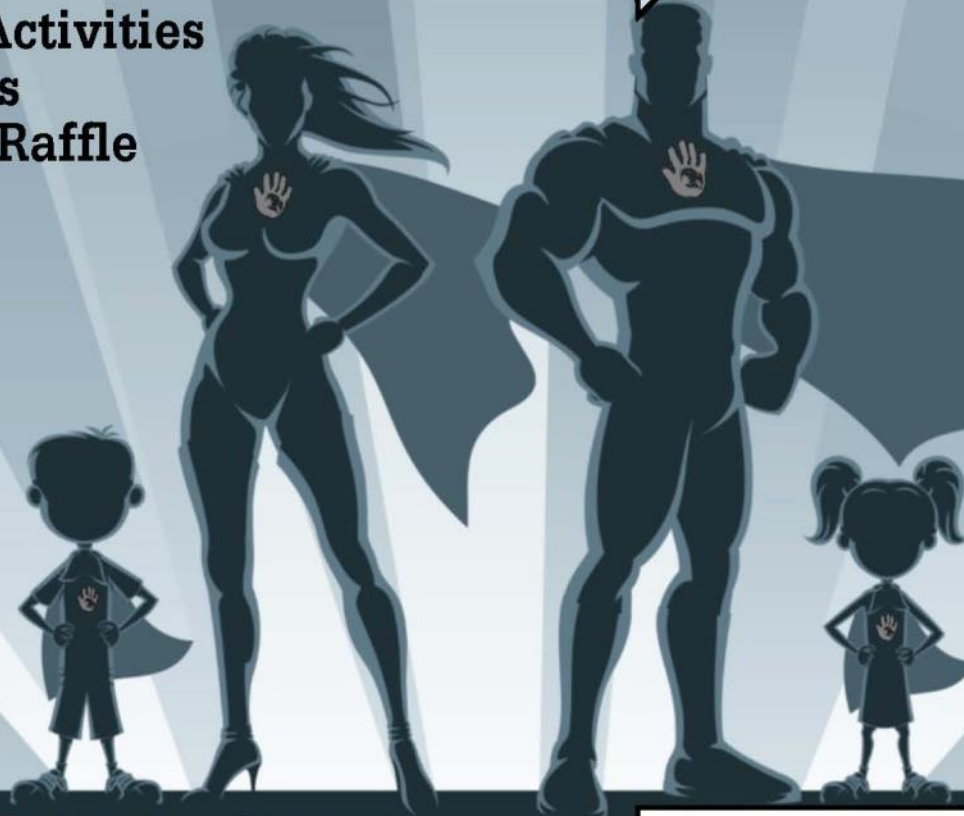
Phillips Park—Aurora, IL

Packet Pick-Up 7:00 AM

Race Time 8:30 AM

- Vendors
- Kids Activities
- Medals
- 50/50 Raffle

**Kids in costume
entered in costume
contest!**



Register at: [Raceroster.com](https://raceroster.com)

<https://raceroster.com/events/2020/29167/superhearo-5k>

Race Registration \$35—Kids under 13 FREE

- Chipped Race Bibs
- FREE Gift for each runner/walker



HANDS &
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ILLINOIS

IL Hands & Voices is a 501c3 Non-Profit
EIN # 06-1724201

ilhandsandvoices.org/superhearo-5k

ilhandsandvoices@gmail.com

630-697-3544

All proceeds will help fund Guide By Your Side
to benefit families in IL who have children who
are deaf/hard of hearing.

ILLINOIS HANDS & VOICES SuperHEARo 50/50 Raffle

**Saturday
May 30
2020**

**Phillips Park
Aurora, IL**



1 Ticket = \$5.00

5 Tickets = \$20.00



Purchase tickets online:

<https://raceroster.com/events/2020/29167/superhearo-dash>

OR to request paper tickets contact:

andrea_stambaugh@yahoo.com

1. You buy your 50/50 raffle tickets. Keep your numbers.
2. A ticket is pulled on race day, if it's your ticket you win 50% of the raffle ticket sales. The other 50% goes to IL Hands & Voices.

50/50 raffle winner does not need to be present to win.



HANDS &
VOICES
ILLINOIS

IL Hands & Voices
501 c3 Non-Profit
EIN # 06-1724201

lhandsandvoices.org/superhearo-5k
lhandsandvoices@gmail.com
630-697-3544



State of Illinois
Department of Human Services
Illinois School for the Deaf



FREE Conferences for Parents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

And the professionals who work with their children

2020 Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach Statewide Parent Conferences

FOUR Locations to choose from:

- South of Seventy – Carterville – Saturday, February 22 – 8:30am –4:00pm
- South of Eighty – Springfield – Saturday, March 28 – 8:30am-4:00pm
- North of Eighty – Rockford – Saturday, April 18 – 8:30am –4:00pm
- City of Chicago – Near Midway – Saturday, May 2 – 9:00am – 4:30pm

2020 Conference Topics:

- Educating Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Different Settings
- Special Education Law and Advocacy
- Growing Up Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Socialization Skills for Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

General Conference Information you should know:

- No childcare is provided at this conference, we welcome your children age 15 or older to participate in the conference.
- Reasonable ADA accommodation requests must be made at least 3 weeks prior to the event date. ASL interpreters are provided at all conferences.
- These conferences are parent safe, meaning the topic of amplification or communication choices is not discussed. All families, regardless of the choices they have made are encouraged to attend.
- Parents: Financial assistance may be available to help with travel, lodging and/or childcare costs. See page 2 for more information.
- Professionals: IL State Board of Ed PD and EI credit available

Register Today

<https://forms.gle/7cDiZ7wfrBbbLcrP9>

Questions or requests – Contact: desa.johnson@illinois.gov

Additional Conference Information:

Financial Assistance may be available to reimburse expenses for childcare, travel or overnight accommodations. Some options are:

- **The ARC of Illinois Consumer Stipend Project** provides funding for families of children with developmental disabilities. Application deadline is 30 days before the event. For more information: www.thearcofil.org or 815-464-1832.
- **UIC Specialized Care for Children** may have funds available. Contact your DSCC representative. For more information: <http://dscc.uic.edu/>.
- **STAR NET** offers assistance to eligible families. Eligibility, application guidelines and amounts available vary by region. Application deadline is 15 days before the event. For more information about opportunities for financial assistance from STAR NET:
 - **South of Seventy:** Sheri Kraus at phone **618-825-3969** or email skraus@sccroe50.org
 - **South of Eighty:** Mary Smith at phone **217-602-0124** or email mk-smith@wiu.edu
 - **North of Eighty:** Roseann Slaght at phone **618-825-3969** or email r-slaght@wiu.edu
 - **City of Chicago:** Chicago office at phone **773-553-5596** or email starnet@cps.edu

Conference Contributors:

- Center for Sight & Hearing – Rockford, IL
- Chicago Park District – Chicago, IL
- Gallaudet University Regional Center
- Illinois School for the Deaf
- Illinois STAR NET Region IV – Southern IL
- John A. Logan College – Carterville, IL

Conference Planning Committee:

- Parents/Grandparents of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Chicago Park District
- Illinois Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side
- Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach
- Illinois Service Resource Center
- Illinois STAR NET Region IV

Register Today

<https://forms.gle/7cDiZ7wfrBbbLcrP9>

Questions or requests – Contact: desajohnson@illinois.gov



REGIONAL CENTER
MIDWEST



SPECIAL EDUCATION & ADVOCACY TRAINING

PROTECTING THE PARENT-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP



Is your child ready for public school?

Parents, caregivers, and professionals supporting babies, toddlers and children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

FREE Training (bring your own lunch)

Topics covered will include:

- Special Education Law
- How to prepare for your child's IEP
- Transition from EI to Early Childhood
- How to successfully advocate for a child
- Illinois Special Education

ADA: ADA accommodations must be requested 3 weeks prior to the event.

Please note: Childcare is not provided for this event, no children under age 15 may attend.

Questions: Andrea.Marwah@illinois.gov / 331-702-8944

Schedule: The morning session will cover IDEA, Section 504, IEP's, accommodations and placement. The afternoon will cover Advocacy: How to advocate successfully for your child

Professional Development: EI Credit, LSLS Credit and ISBE PD Credit will be offered at no charge. (full day required)

**SATURDAY,
MAY 16, 2020**

9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

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

[CLICK here to register](#)

Or visit:

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

Two communities with the same love for hockey



We experienced such a blessing back In October. My son, Eli, had the opportunity to participate in a social media campaign with the National Hockey League. The intended message was, "Hockey is for everyone." Eli has played hockey for 8 seasons as a goalie for various teams.

For one week every summer, he has attended a camp with The American Hearing-Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) in the northwest suburbs. AHIHA is a hockey camp for all children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing throughout the United States. It was through this connection that the president of AHIHA, Kevin Delaney, told Eli about the opportunity. Eli met and taught hockey related signs to NHL players, for

a video that would air on social media sites such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook at the start of the new hockey season. It was an incredibly special experience. One that Eli will no doubt remember forever.



#HockeyIsForEveryone

Learn more about Deaf/Hard of hearing hockey at AHIHA.org

Written by Alison Rollins

Filling a need

My daughter, Rebekah, has unilateral microtia-atresia, a condition where her left ear did not fully develop in utero. Her ear canal is closed, making her deaf in one ear. She wears a BAH (bone anchored hearing aid), a hearing aid that helps her hear better. In our journey with microtia, I've discovered a need for a well-designed children's book to help hard of hearing children navigate the unique challenges they face. In preparation for Rebekah starting preschool this fall, I created a customized book to help her gain tools in self-



advocacy for the use of her device and to feel empowered in the midst of her differences. Several months ago we started calling her BAH a superpower and it has had a huge impact on the excitement and self-image that she has around her device. When we turn it on, Rebekah proclaims proudly "Superpowers ignite!" We also know that kids will inevitably have questions, and this resource gives the skills to help navigate those conversations. Rebekah now knows that the questions are going to come and how to address them in a confident way. We launched a kickstarter to help cover the initial costs of the book and making it possible for other



kiddos to get the book. Because of the kickstarter we were able to donate 30 books to Lurie's Children's Audiology Department to distribute to other kiddos with microtia, as well as one for each of Rebekah's classmates for her first 4 years of school. The book is now available for purchase on lulu.com (link below). I also have the dream of creating a version featuring a kiddo with a Cochlear implant and behind the ear hearing aid.

Here's the link of the kickstarter: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/rebekahssuperpower/rebekahs-superpower>

Here's a link to purchase the book: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/emma-bilyk/rebekahs-superpower/paperback/product-24298130.html>

Written by Emma Bilyk

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A HEARING LOSS?



"It's changed my world...(the Institute) opened my eyes to the diversity of hearing loss."

Do you have questions about communication options, language development, amplification, social-emotional development and school programs?

All of your questions can be answered in one place!

INSTITUTE FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

JUNE 7-12, 2020



What is the Institute?

The Institute is a one-week program (Sunday - Friday) for parents of children (through age 5) who have a significant hearing loss.

The Institute is held in June on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. Parents learn about hearing loss and their child's individual strengths and needs. Parents will meet other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Mission Statement

The Institute provides information and support to families so they can make informed decisions on behalf of their child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The Institute was summarized by one parent as "an incredibly useful week to...prepare my child for a life of learning."

"Very well worth our time.
Like others, I wasn't sure what
to expect, but I can tell you
it exceeded my expectations.
All parents of deaf or
hard-of-hearing
children should
attend."

Who Sponsors the Institute?

The Institute receives support from:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
- Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD)
- University of Illinois at Chicago's
Division of Specialized Care for
Children (DSCC)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's
Hospital of Chicago

"This was a wonderful and absolutely overwhelming experience. I have learned so much about deafness while here at ISD..."

How Do I Get More Information About the Institute?

Contact the Division of Specialized Care
for Children at (800) 322-3722 or
Institute@exchange.dsccl.uic.edu.

Visit our website:
dsccl.uic.edu



State of Illinois
J. B. Pritzker, Governor
Illinois Department of Human Services
James T. Dimas, Secretary

More About Institute

What do children do? Each morning the children go to classrooms overseen by experienced teachers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Children receive hearing, vision, psychological, speech, language and educational evaluations. Children will also have the chance to play with other children who have a hearing loss.

What do parents do? Parents attend daily lectures by experts in the field to learn about raising a child with hearing loss. They also meet in small groups to discuss specific concerns and connect with other caregivers. Parents meet with professional staff to review the evaluations for their child. They also have the opportunity to learn about various communication modes used with deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

Lecture topics include:

- Child Development
- Types of Hearing Loss
- Communication Choices
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants
- Language Development
- Parent Rights
- School Programming
- Deaf Culture

What about siblings? Brothers and sisters, through age 12, can come to the Institute. They participate in activities for their age group at the Nursery School on the ISD campus. Siblings also stay with their families in the dorms and go to recreational activities.

What does it cost? There is no cost for families who come to the Institute. Meals and housing are provided at no charge on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf. This week is free!

Who works at the Institute? Professionals from all over Illinois come to the Institute. They come from hospitals, schools, colleges, private centers, ISD, DSCC and DPH.

Where is the Institute? The Institute is held at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. Jacksonville is 30 miles west of Springfield on Interstate 72.

DSCC and DHS/DRS do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Directors are responsible for compliance. DSCC (217) 558-2350 and DHS/ISD (217) 479-4200 (voice/TTY) or <http://illinoisdeaf.org>

Fun for All

H&V/GBYS Family Event

February 8th — at 10:30-12:30 pm. In Bloomington at Chuck E Cheese, 1701 Empire Street, Bloomington, IL 61704.

Come join us to play some fun games! Mingle with other families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing while the kids enjoy time playing games with new friends!

Text Anita before 2/5 at (309)531-9941 to RSVP!! RSVP is a must — we have a limited number of spots!

This event is LIMITED to 10 child participants so please RSVP asap.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Siblings do not have to be deaf or hard of hearing to join in on the fun. This event is for the whole family.
- RSVP is needed—please contact Anita and not Chuck E Cheese.
- You do not need to participate in Guide By Your Side in order to attend this event.
- This event will not include food only points to play games.



Please call to get all the details and to RSVP.

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

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)

Communication accommodations available upon request. Interpreter requests are needed two weeks before the date of the event. Requests after this time are not guaranteed.

All families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing are welcome to join us for an exciting experience while meeting others who are deaf and hard of hearing too! This event is for the whole family.

Fun for All

H&V/GBYS Family Event

February 23rd — at 1:30-3:00 pm. In Wheeling at the American Academy of Gymnastics, 280 Palatine Rd, Wheeling 60090.

Come join us for some tumbling fun! Mingle with other families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing while the kids enjoy time on the gymnastics mat.

Call, text or Email Christen before 2/15 at 330.715.7685 or cnolfi.gbys@gmail.com to RSVP!! RSVP is a must — we have a limited number of spots!

This event is LIMITED to 15 child participants so please RSVP asap.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Siblings do not have to be deaf or hard of hearing to join in on the fun. This event is for the whole family
- RSVP is needed—please contact Christen and not American Academy.
- You do not need to participate in Guide By Your Side in order to attend this event.



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All families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing are welcome to join us for an exciting experience while meeting others who are deaf and hard of hearing too! This event is for the whole family.

Fun for All

H&V/GBYS Family Event

March 14th — at 1:30-3:30 pm. In Buffalo Grove at Whimsy Play Cafe, 282 McHenry Road in Buffalo Grove, IL. During this time our group will be the only group playing at Whimsy which will allow parents to mingle more easily.

Come join us for some imaginative, active and creative play! Visit with other families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing while the kids enjoy time playing within the tiny town setting. Whimsy play is geared towards kids ages 6 months to 7 years old. Socks are mandatory for all (parents and kids).

Call, text or Email Jaclyn before 3/10 at 847.877.1298 or jurbanski.gbys@gmail.com to RSVP!! RSVP is a must — we have a limited number of spots!

This event is LIMITED to 20 child participants so please RSVP asap.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Siblings do not have to be deaf or hard of hearing to join in on the fun. This event is for the whole family
- RSVP is needed—please contact Jaclyn and not Whimsy Play Café.
- You do not need to participate in Guide By Your Side in order to attend this event.



Please call to get all the details and to RSVP.

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All families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing are welcome to join us for an exciting experience while meeting others who are deaf and hard of hearing too! This event is for the whole family.

GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

*Providing unbiased emotional support and
resources by trained Parent Guides to families with
children who are deaf and hard of hearing.*

To receive more information or to
request a Parent Guide:

Call/Text: 224-343-1873

Fax: 866-695-3880

E-mail: ilhvgbys@gmail.com

WEB: www.ilhandsandvoices.org



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 that is deaf or hard of hearing or 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

Please fax to 866-695-3880 or email to ilhvgbys@gmail.com



This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant #H61MC04498; "Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention," in the amount of \$250,000. 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. Cb1.20

Early Intervention

Child's Voice is a listening and spoken language program for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families.

Teletherapy Services

What is teletherapy?

- Speech and aural rehabilitation therapies provided through an internet connection using a smart phone, tablet or computer with a camera.
- Therapy sessions where parents and caregivers play an active role and learn how to develop their child's communication skills through daily routines and resources found in their homes.



Who provides the services?

Speech-language pathologists and developmental therapists - hearing specialists who are EI credentialed providers in the state of Illinois.

Who is teletherapy for?

- Families who have a baby or toddler with hearing loss and want their child to learn to listen and talk.
- Families who do not have access to an early intervention provider who specializes in listening and spoken language.

These services are free.

At Child's Voice, a child with hearing loss learns to listen and to speak.

CHILD'S VOICE

You'll be hearing from us!

1846 W Belmont Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773-516-5720
info@childsvoice.org

180 Hansen Court
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630-595-8200
info@childsvoice.org

www.childsvoice.org



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!

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

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

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:

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.



2020 CAMP LIONS DATES



Camp Reynoldswood

621 Reynoldswood Rd, Dixon, IL

June 21 to June 27th *Helen Keller Week*

Check in on Sunday from 2pm-4pm//Check out on Saturday 9am-11am

East Bay Camp

24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson, IL

July 5th to July 11th *HoH/DEAF & LV/Blind Camp*

July 12 to July 18th *HoH/Deaf Camp*

July 19 to July 25th *LV/Blind Camp*

**Check in on Sunday from 2pm-4pm//Check out on Saturday 9am-11am*

Camp Manitowa

12770 N. Benton Rd, Benton, IL

July 26 to August 1

HoH/DEAF & LV/Blind Camp

**Check in on Sunday from 2pm-4pm//Check out on Saturday 9am-11am*

Cedar Point High Adventures Camp

1327 Camp Cedar Point LN, Makanda, IL

August 2 to August 8

HoH/DEAF & LV/Blind Camp

Ages 13yrs-17yrs; 18yrs-24yrs

**Check in on Sunday from 2pm-4pm//Check out on Saturday 9am-11am*

2020 CAMP LIONS DATES

Join us for a trip to

Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks

May 22–25, 2020



If you enjoy the great outdoors, consider spending a spring weekend in the Rocky Mountains with other people who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families and friends. A group of parents is organizing a trip to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks May 22–25, 2020 and invites you to join them.

Melissa Bair, one of the event coordinators, can be contacted at melissabair28@gmail.com. Reservations are needed by Feb. 28.

This is not being hosted by IL Hands & Voices.

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!



To apply, visit www.infanthearing.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

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.

(Continued from page 1)

could help us reach families looking for free one on one support and resources from one of our trained Parent Guides.

I am so blessed to have been the leader since the inception of our IL GBYS program in May 2009. I am proud of our guides and can't help but smile when I think about the friends I have met through this journey. I am grateful for the guidance and resources that the national program provides us with and the ability for us to work smarter not harder. Above all I am in awe of the connections I have made at the countless individuals who are constantly brainstorming on how we can improve our programs and services in Illinois for families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Thank you for your dedication and relentless spirit.

The beauty of it all is that I know my family has grown stronger and experienced more than we would of if my heart, mind and soul were not open to possibilities. Unbiased support and resources from Hands & Voices has given that to me.

Written by Carrie Balian, Coordinator of IL HV GBYS

WANTED

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING INTERVIEW SUBJECTS FOR MICKEY MOUSE DOCUMENTARY

An upcoming feature film to be released in 2020 is looking for Disney and Mickey Mouse fans to share their personal Mickey stories and memories. The film is looking for interested individuals to appear on camera for brief sit-down interviews to be conducted in Winter 2020. If you or someone you know is interested in sharing and participating, please connect with us. We would love to hear from you!

We are open to a variety of individuals with disabilities across all different communities, ages, races, ethnicities, and body types.

CONTACT: disneyproject@tremoloproductions.com

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!





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

SHARE



SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

How We Help

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) partners with Illinois families and communities to help children and youth with special health-care needs connect to services and resources. We guide families through their child's journey with a medical condition and work with doctors, schools and community groups to create a seamless support system. We assess a child's medical, social, behavioral, educational and financial needs and develop a personalized plan of care. This process is called care coordination and is **FREE**, regardless of a family's income level.

Our care coordination is tailored to each family and focused on their specific goals. It can include:

- Accessing diagnostic testing
- Finding specialized medical care
- Helping families maximize their insurance and understand their coverage/benefits
- Communicating with doctors and specialists
- Attending school meetings and assisting with the IEP or 504 Plan process
- Coordinating transportation for appointments
- Applying for grants to fund therapies, equipment or other needs
- Linking families with local charities, programs and resources
- Facilitating equipment orders
- Assisting with the application for federal and state benefit programs, such as SSI, Illinois Link Card and WIC
- Connecting families for parent-to-parent support
- Preparing for the transition to adulthood

Financial Assistance Available - We can also help pay for eligible medical expenses, such as equipment, therapies, supplies and medical services, when families meet income guidelines.

Our Impact

Our care coordination makes it possible for families to:

- Feel more confident and organized in the care of their child.
- Understand and stay at the center of decisions about their child's care.
- Develop a stronger partnership with their child's doctors and specialists.
- Express their worries and concerns and address them productively.
- Effectively navigate the maze of resources and insurance coverage/benefits.
- Support and achieve their child's educational and vocational goals.

See Other Side for More Information

WHO WE SERVE

DSCC serves Illinois families with children up to age 21 who have or are suspected of having an eligible medical condition. Eligible conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Blood Disorders
- Cardiovascular Impairments
- Craniofacial & External Body Impairments
- Eye Impairments
- Gastrointestinal Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Inborn Errors of Metabolism
- Nervous System Impairments
- Orthopedic Impairments
- Pulmonary Impairments
- Urogenital Impairments

We also serve families who care for children and youth who require in-home shift nursing through the Home Care Program. DSCC operates the Home Care Program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This program helps youth remain in their family home rather than a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Many eligible youth are also medically fragile and dependent on technology - such as on ventilators, tracheostomies and gastrostomy tubes - for their well-being.

Contact us at:
(800) 322-3722
dsccl.uic.edu



WHO WE ARE

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is a statewide program that serves children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families. Each state receives federal funds to improve the health of children and youth with special healthcare needs. DSCC has been the designated program for Illinois since 1937.

We have 11 regional offices throughout the state that help Illinois families in their local communities. Our staff includes social workers, nurses, speech pathologists, audiologists and other team members who are trained to partner with families to help them identify needs and connect them to the specialty care and resources they need for their child to reach their full potential.



"Any time I have a problem, I contact DSCC. If I can't figure it out, they help me figure out a solution, so I'm thankful I have somebody to turn to."

Experience why **acs** Is the alternative

Experience our Services

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
Remote CART Services
Realtime Captioning
Text Interpreting (TypeWell & C-Print)
Sign Language

Experience our Differences

Experience
Consistent Quality
Competitive Rates
Personalized Support
Client Respect
Employee Respect
Redundancy



Alternative Communication Services, LLC

P.O. Box 278
Lombard, Illinois 60148
800-335-0911
info@acscaptions.com
www.acscaptions.com



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

PHONE: 847-467-4156

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

IRB# STU00070688



Hearing and
Language Lab



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



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.

**CHILD's
VOICE**

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



Got Skills?

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS AND LEADERSHIP CAMP

JUNE 28 – JULY 5
2020

DESIGN YOUR OWN CAMP!

Academic Bowl • Basketball • Debate • Football •

Choose from a variety of sports and leadership activities:

- Science
- Soccer
- Team Building
- Volleyball

Program fee: \$600

Who can attend?
Deaf and hard of hearing students entering grades 7-9 in the fall of 2020.

How to qualify?
Two letters of recommendation from your teachers, counselors, principals, and/or coaches.

BONUS! SIX FLAGS | GALLAUDET | WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGISTER NOW: www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | Youth Programs | [f](https://www.facebook.com/GUYouthPrograms) [@GUYouthPrograms](https://www.instagram.com/GUYouthPrograms)
youthprograms@gallaudet.edu (202) 250-2189 (videophone/Voice)



Discover Your Future

FIND YOUR PASSION AND PURSUE IT!

JUNE 20-27
2020

Designed for students who want to learn more about themselves, their skills, and potential careers.

Here's what you'll do!

- Self discovery and outdoor activities to help you develop leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence
- Outdoor activities to help you develop leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence
- Take assessments designed to help you, your parents, and your Vocational Rehabilitation/Department of Rehabilitation (VR/DOR) counselors learn more about your strengths, areas of improvement, values, interests, and potential careers
- Develop a transition portfolio with our support for you to bring home to your families, schools, and VR/DOR counselors
- Choose an area of focus from three possible tracks for afternoon sessions: DeafBiz, Digital Media, or ACT Prep

Program fee: \$750 (limited scholarships available)

Who can attend?
Deaf and hard of hearing students who will be in grades 10-12 in the fall of 2020.

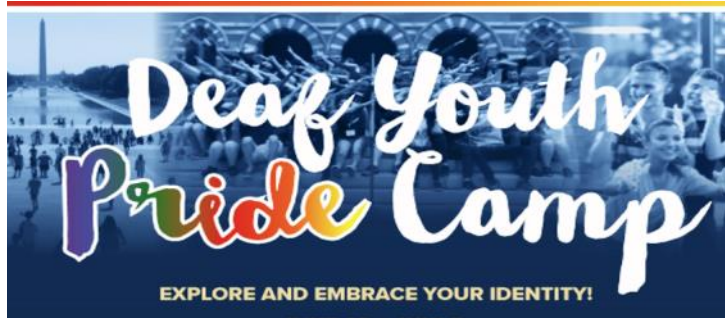
How to qualify?

- Must be enrolled in a standard high school diploma program
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above
- Recommendation letter from teacher or career counselor

BONUS! SIX FLAGS | GALLAUDET | WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGISTER NOW: www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | Youth Programs | [f](https://www.facebook.com/GUYouthPrograms) [@GUYouthPrograms](https://www.instagram.com/GUYouthPrograms)
youthprograms@gallaudet.edu (202) 250-2189 (videophone/Voice)



Deaf Youth Pride Camp

EXPLORE AND EMBRACE YOUR IDENTITY!

JUNE 28 – JULY 5
2020

A camp for deaf and hard of hearing students who identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community and want to learn new skills to become an advocate for themselves and others.

Here's what you'll do!

- Attend workshops and activities with your peers to learn more about yourself and various identities.
- Meet with deaf people from diverse backgrounds and people from national LGBTQIA+ Youth organizations.
- Learn new skills to become an advocate for yourself and others in the community.

Program fee: \$750 (limited scholarships available)

Who can attend?
Deaf and hard of hearing students who will be entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2020.

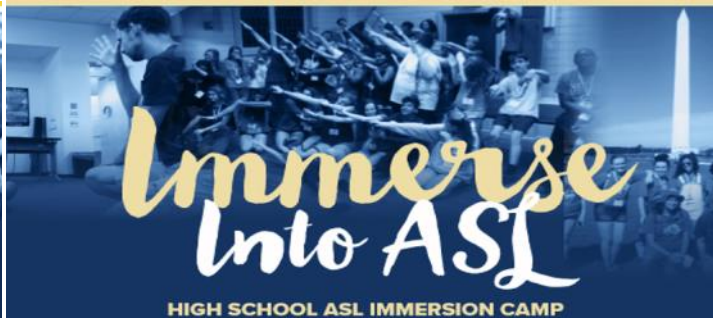
How to qualify?

- Must be enrolled in a standard high school diploma program
- Recommendation letter from teacher or career counselor

BONUS! SIX FLAGS | GALLAUDET | WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGISTER NOW: www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps

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youthprograms@gallaudet.edu (202) 250-2189 (videophone/Voice)



Immerse Into ASL

HIGH SCHOOL ASL IMMERSION CAMP

JUNE 20-27
2020

Designed for new signers who are at the beginner or intermediate levels; this camp allows deaf and hard of hearing youth to immerse themselves and socialize within an American Sign Language (ASL) environment.

Here's what you'll do!

- Learn a new language or improve on your budding ASL skills with the help of instructors, camp counselors, and your peers
- Participate in self-discovery activities designed to help you learn more about yourself.
- Join outdoor activities including a ropes course to help you develop leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Program fee: \$750 (limited scholarships available)

Who can attend?
Deaf and hard of hearing students who will be in grades 10-12 in the fall of 2020.

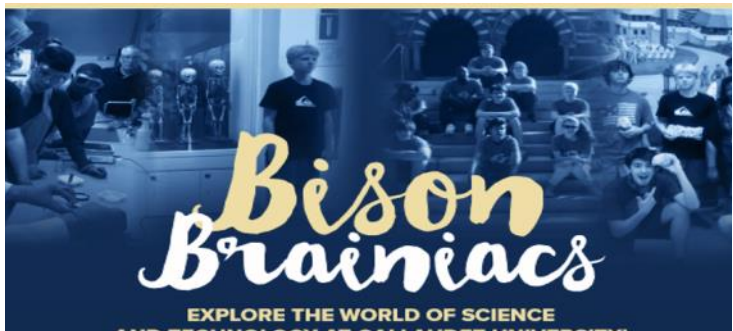
How to qualify?

- Must be enrolled in a standard high school diploma program

BONUS! SIX FLAGS | GALLAUDET | WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGISTER NOW: www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | Youth Programs | [f](https://www.facebook.com/GUYouthPrograms) [@GUYouthPrograms](https://www.instagram.com/GUYouthPrograms)
youthprograms@gallaudet.edu (202) 250-2189 (videophone/Voice)



Bison Brainiacs

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY!

**JUNE 20-27
2020**

A camp for aspiring scientists and tech-savvy high school students!

Here's what you'll do!

- Perform hands-on chemistry and physics experiments
- Explore the Anacostia River and research the health of its ecosystem
- Play with innovative technologies such as 3D printing
- Immerse into the world of neuroscience
- Participate in an exciting STEM Decathlon!

Program fee: FREE!
(Thanks to a generous grant from the Northington Grumman Foundation)

Who can attend?
Deaf and hard of hearing students who will be in grades 10-12 in the fall of 2020.



How to qualify?

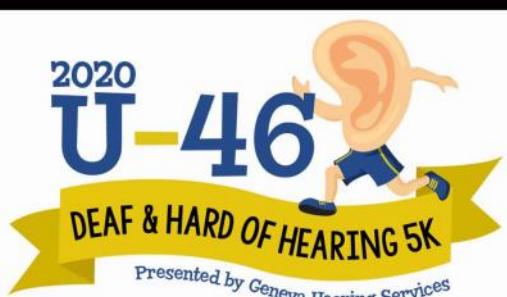
- Must be enrolled in a standard high school diploma program
- Good grades in science and technology courses
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above

BONUS! SIX FLAGS | GALLAUDET | WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGISTER NOW: www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/summer-youth-camps

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY | Youth Programs

  @GUYouthPrograms
youthprograms@gallaudet.edu
(202) 250-2199 (video/phone/Voice)






2020 U-46
DEAF & HARD OF HEARING 5K
Presented by Geneva Hearing Services

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020
10:00 am race, 8:30 am registration

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER
2054 W Stearns Road
Bartlett, IL 60103

For more information:
tinyurl.com/u46DHH
U46DeafandHardofHearing5K.itsyourrace.com

  
#u46DHH5K #sdu46

- open to the public • signing volunteers
- stroller and wheelchair accessible route
- bathrooms • meal provided • activities

• pre-registration encouraged • ages 3-17 \$10 • ages 18+ \$25*
all pre-registered participants receive t-shirt and swag bag

*after 4/17 \$30

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/>



30 YEARS OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IATP OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 31, 2020 – 2:00 PM TO 6:00 PM
ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
1020 SOUTH SPRING STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL

**TOUR OUR OFFICE AND SEE HOW TECHNOLOGY
HAS CHANGED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS**

FREE MAKE AND TAKE LOW TECH DEVICES

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

**CONTACT IATP AT 217-522-7985 BY MARCH 1 IF
SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NEEDED**



New Announcement by Illinois Deaf Campers

IDC creates a new theme of this year, "Family Time Camping of 2020", planning to have three seasonal campgrounds at three different locations.

Keep eyes on IDC that aims to gather families, children, and friends of Hearing and Deaf parents of their hearing, hard of hearing and deaf children that are very much welcome to visit, join and camp with us, altogether. This will be a great experience for everyone, outdoor fresh air activities, crafts, cooking, families and children's growth together and social skills of interaction at campground with us. Put video games and mobile devices aside for a temporary break!

Come on over and visit us in our IDC Facebook page: Illinois Deaf Campers, established since 2004 with our improvement, bright ideas, new fun activities to be with parents, grandparents, children, friends in all ages. Feel free to join with us. It is called a family growth and healthy friendships. Want to know more, talk with us. We will be very happy to hear from you.

Contact Keith Stolz, IDC Membership Manager at (815) 220-5097 and for any questions, contact Anita Cervantes-Bowen, IDC Director at (309) 531-9941 to leave messages for us to call back.



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.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

USE: <https://smile.amazon.com/>
EVERYTIME you shop

▶ THREE EASY STEPS:

1. CLICK LINK BELOW
(or type into your browser window)
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1724201>
2. Enter your Amazon Account user name/password
3. SHOP



*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*



Stay up to date by following
Illinois Hands & Voices on
FaceBook and Instagram



Instagram



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



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)



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

This research is conducted by Dr. Erika Bergelson, in Duke's Psychology & Neuroscience Department