

## IF YOUR CHILD IS IDENTIFIED WITH A HEARING LOSS...

1. Read through the EHDI Family Resource Guide. Write down any questions or concerns to discuss with your Parent Guide.
2. Meet with your Parent Guide as soon as possible.
3. Schedule further testing if needed.
4. Explore communication options for your child and family.
5. Enter your child into the Early Intervention of choice.
6. Above all, love your child, play with your child and know that everything will be okay!



## GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE



*For families with children who have a hearing loss*

### Guide By Your Side

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*Guide By Your Side is a Hands & Voices program that, in Oregon, is coordinated by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program in the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division.*

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority



*Providing unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides.*

## WHAT IS GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE?

Guide By Your Side is a Hands & Voices program that matches trained Parent Guides with families who have recently found out their child has a hearing loss.

Parent Guides provide unbiased support to families, helping each family make decisions that are right for their child.

Parent Guides also have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Through direct peer connections, guides promote self-efficacy and reduce isolation by exploring our common bond, shared experiences, wisdom and insight.

- Guides help families explore the options that will be best for their child and family.
- Guides provide access to local, national and web-based resources.
- Guides give parents the knowledge needed to effectively advocate for their child.



**“Guide By Your Side made a huge difference for our daughter and our family. She talks and sings like any other 5 year old!”**

*Hearing loss is the most common birth defect - found in 12,000 children in the United States each year. When hearing loss is discovered early and managed, your child can learn to communicate and thrive.*

## PARENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

You have the right to be mother or father to your child — to enjoy, play with and guide your child.

You have the right to grieve, to receive emotional support and to know that all feelings are normal.

You have the right to a sense of confidence about raising your child. You are the parent and you know your child better than anyone.

You have the right to communicate fully with your child.

You have the right to tell professionals and educators how you feel about the job they are doing and to expect respect for your input and opinions.

You have the right to designate service providers, and to have more than one choice.

You have the right to ask any question.

You have the right to see your child as a whole person — to see your child first, the hearing loss second.