

Fathering A Deaf Or Hard Of Hearing Child: An Onboarding Checklist For Dads

2023 EHDI ANNUAL MEETING



Presenters

Milez Penninger

- Parent of a child who is D/HH
- Member, Indiana Hands & Voices



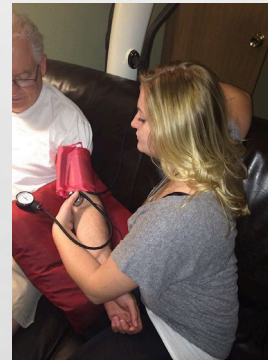
Tony Ronco

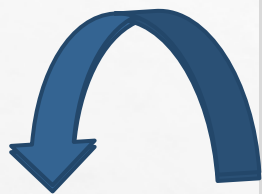
- Parent of an adult who is Deaf
- Board Member of CA Hands & Voices



Sara Kennedy & Candace Lindow-Davies

- Parents
- Co-Facilitators of the EHDI P2P Work Group
- Staff at Hands & Voices HQ





Welcome
Virtual Waiting Room
Here you access our range of telehealth services

Telehealth

Loss & Found

Resources

Other Professionals

HANDS & VOICES

This project is supported by the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) through its grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$4,000,000 with the percentage financed with non-governmental sources (Grant #7200375655). The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by AMCHP, HRSA, HHS, or the US Government.

Welcome
Virtual Waiting Room

- Telehealth / Teleaudiology
- Family Guide to Audiology & Telehealth
- Loss & Found Video
- Family to Family Support
- Parent Resources
- Other Professionals
- Self-Care Station
- Ask a Trained Parent
- About the VWR
- FLJ Home Page
- H&V Home Page

FATHERING A DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING CHILD

AN ONBOARDING CHECKLIST FOR DADS

Find it here!



2022

Developed by the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Parent to Parent Committee

NEW

Who Created This Guide?

- Input, wisdom and guidance provided by *the Fathers Task Force*, fathers of children who are deaf and hard of hearing representing diverse lived experiences and choices.
- Supported by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Parent to Parent Committee
 - national, interdisciplinary, interagency, inter-organizational and diverse parent/professional group of volunteer stakeholders.



Terminology



- *This checklist focuses on the role of “father,” and it applies to any person who feels that they fulfill this role in a child’s life.



Checklist's Purpose

- To assert a father's right to have high expectations for their child.
- To ensure new fathers know why, what, and how to access expertise, resources and information for their child who is dhh.
- So fathers know they are not alone; share information about the benefits and availability of other fathers and adults who are dhh.

"Our commitments ultimately become the anchor and engine of our lives. This is your defining commitment." - Damian, Colorado



Checklist Topics

- Learning Curve For New Dads
- Language And Communication
- Relationships: Partner, Providers, Extended Family & Community
- A Father's Well-being
- School
- Child's Well-being
- High Expectations
- Pro Tips From Fathers To Professionals



Example Of Content - Relationships

Fathering a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child: An Onboarding Checklist for Dads

Relationships:

If You Have a Partner:

- Have discussions with your partner before you meet with professionals. You are both learning as you go. Some days you are the coach, some days you are getting a lesson.
- Trust and work equitably as a team and present a united front.
- Dads are not always number one when a child has significant needs. You may have to work at your relationship. Make time for your relationship with your partner.
- Talk to your partner about balancing work, caregiving, and other responsibilities. You may need to change schedules or make new plans as a family.
- A parenting class may be helpful.

With Medical, Educational, D/HH Adult, and other Providers:

- If you can, have solo visits with professionals to build relationships with them. Share your experiences with the rest of your family to help make decisions together. Building rapport with professionals will help them see your child as an individual, not a number.
- Connect with D/HH mentors and role models. With their lived experience, they are the opposite of the inexperienced expert or parent.

With Extended Family and Community:

- Build a community around your child. Educate hearing children and extended family about your child's needs.
- Don't expect extended family to jump right in on learning how your child communicates. Many of them may not; that is their choice. Lead by example.
- Find D/HH adults and other families with D/HH children.
- Seek out formal parent to parent support to meet other parents, D/HH kids and their siblings.
- Be patient with people out in public. You will get some comments that may seem kind of inappropriate or even offensive. Many people you will encounter have never met a deaf person and really don't know much about it.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Look into family support programs.
- ✓ Attend Deaf community events.

"Don't underestimate the need for taking time to focus on your relationship and communication with your partner. With my child now a little bit older, I have noticed that separation and divorce seem more common in the special-needs parents, and the additional financial, physical and emotional stress on your relationship should not be neglected." Darren, Indiana

"Don't underestimate the need for taking time to focus on your relationship and communication with your partner. With my child now a little bit older, I have noticed that separation and divorce seem more common in the special-needs parents, and the additional financial, physical and emotional stress on your relationship should not be neglected." Darren, Indiana



Tips For Sharing The Checklist

Professionals & Parent/DHH leaders:

- Share guide with individual families
- Host events for fathers
- Add to your website
- Add to a packet for new parents
- Distribute on social media and newsletters
- Highlight a dad's response in your social media



“It’s very unlikely I would bump into dads
who have kids like mine.

I don’t have other dads in my life.

Our discussion here shows how crucial it is to
give fathers opportunities to connect.”

- Milez Penninger



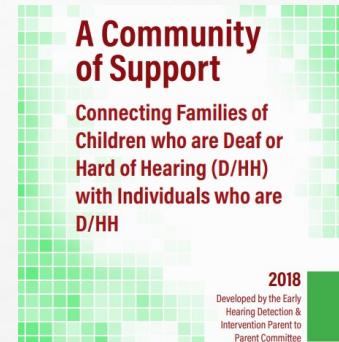
Current Project

Support for Families in Rural Communities (and for the providers who serve them)

Sign up to get updates: Email [Sara Kennedy](#) or [Candace Lindow-Davies](#)



Past Projects



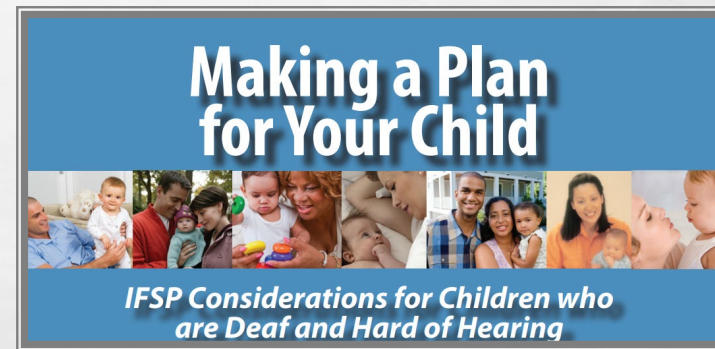
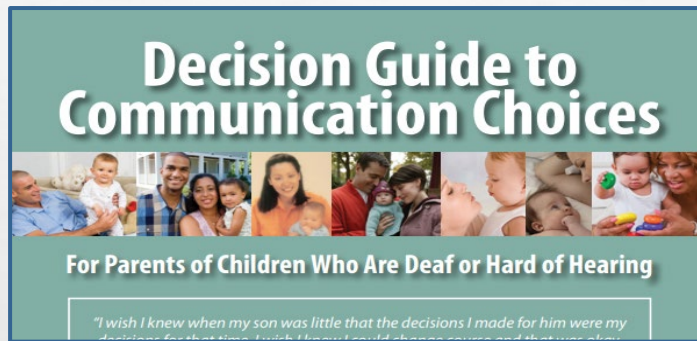

Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Early Intervention Team

Names of Early Interventionists: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____



[QUESTIONS TO ASK SERIES](#)
[\(AUDIOLOGIST, ENT, GENETICIST, ETC.\)](#)

[DECISION GUIDE TO](#)
[COMMUNICATION CHOICES](#)

[MAKING A PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD:](#)
[IFSP CONSIDERATIONS](#)

[A Community Of Support: Connecting Families Of Children Who Are Deaf And Hard Of Hearing Plus With Resources And Support](#)

[A Community Of Support: Connecting Families Of Children Who Are D/Hh With Individuals Who Are D/HH](#)



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