

Rural Living Tips for Raising a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child in a Rural Community



2024 National EHDI Conference

Presenters

From the 2022-23 EHDI P2P Committee:

Teri Urban

- Parent of a deaf teenager
- Chair Virginia H&V
- Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss



Sara Kennedy

- Parent of a Deaf young adult
- Hands & Voices HQ Editor/Trainer
- Past Director Colorado H&V



Rural Living
**Tips for Raising a Deaf/
 Hard of Hearing Child in a
 Rural Community**

2023
 Developed by the Early
 Hearing Detection &
 Intervention Parent to
 Parent Committee



Welcome
 Virtual Waiting Room

See the site and sign in to access resources

Loss & Grief

Resources

Other Professionals

Handwritten text: "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 10% percentage financed with non-governmental sources. Grant #1U49CE000434. 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."

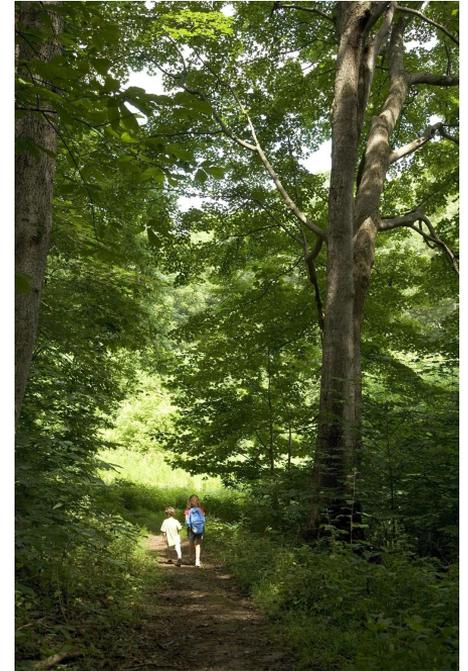
Welcome
 Virtual Waiting Room

- Telehealth / Teleaudiology
- Family Guide to Audiology & Telehealth
- Loss & Grief Video
- Family to Family Support
- Parent Resources
- Other Professionals
- Self-Care Station
- Ask a Trainer Parent
- About the VWR
- TLI Home Page
- VWR Home Page

Who and Why?

- Highlight the knowledge and experience of the committee
- Create a unique resource
- Support families with limited resources and challenging commutes

	2021	2022
Urban	24.07%	26.27
Suburban	62%	55.08%
Rural	13.89%	18.64%



Identifying Strategies and Resources

Services
Advocacy

*Although resources are
limited in rural areas, our
children can still thrive.*

Technology
Access

Karonica, Mississippi

Accessing
Qualified
Providers

Distance and
Transportation

Social
Isolation



Technology/Remote Service Access:

Digital and remote services may be available but not accessible by rural families.

- Virtual access is not always available, reliable and/or has enough bandwidth in your rural area.
- Internet providers may not be able to accept more customers in certain areas.
- Remote access may not be affordable.
- Virtual access may not be a fit for the service your child needs. A virtual connection may not provide quality equitable interaction for medical services or when high-speed internet is needed for fluency of ASL, cue, etc.

Strategies:

- Pursue lower-cost internet services through local programs.
- Pursue free equipment such as video phones, captioned phones, and devices either through the captioned telephone or video relay provider or through a state/territory/island program. Training may also be available through state commissions, etc.
- Contact your child's clinical or educational audiologist for help.
- Continue to advocate for your family's needs when technology is inconsistent or in-person services are more beneficial.
- Join your local library and reserve a meeting room to use internet.
- See if a WIFI/MIFI booster can help increase your WIFI signal.

Resources:

- Affordable Connectivity Program for lower cost internet: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>
- Free equipment (adapted phones) and training for deafblind individuals: <https://www.icanconnect.org/>
- Videophones provided by contracted companies: www.fcc.gov/vrs-providers
- Equipment through a state/territory/island program specializing in children/adults with special needs or specifically for DHH. Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) list: <https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/financial-assistance/state-telephone-programs/>
- Smoke detectors/fire alarms may be available for free in some states/territories/islands through state/local government, American Red Cross, etc. See also, items for purchase at technology stores

For us, meaningful connection to other families facing similar additional burdens and who have the understanding of our children's rights and needs have empowered us to keep going."

Penni, Nevada

A Look Inside...

While remote access has only grown in popularity and use since COVID, rural families can't rely on the internet consistently.

It also may be unaffordable or inappropriate for our child's needs.

What can a system of care do?

Pro Tips: Rural Families to Providers

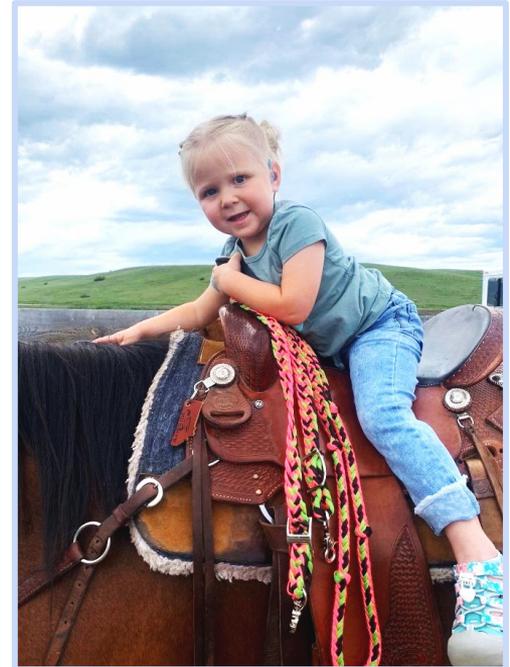
- Develop close working ties with the families you serve
- Listen carefully to unique considerations
- Know available regional, statewide and national services available
- Take the burden off of families to navigate systems
- Create opportunities for the DHH child to improve advocacy skills and knowledge as they grow
- Consider how each family learns and wants to receive information
- And more...

We live rural by choice. Throughout the states we have lived in, we value smaller class sizes and wide-open spaces. Yes, we have been advised to move. We accept the responsibility to take our deaf daughter to her pediatrician and specialists and we make it work.

Teri, Virginia parent

How Does Your EHDI System Serve Rural Families?

- What is the percentage of rural families served vs. Lost to Follow Up?
- Are there barriers shared?
- Are rural families invited to leadership?
- Are rural families offered similar services in screening, diagnostics, Early Intervention and school-based services?
- How can you better engage rural families in your EHDI system?



Current EHDI P2P Project

Social Emotional Resources for Families

- Empower families to be proud of their child
- Build a foundation for identity
- Focus on Social Language
- Support self-advocacy



Coming Next!!! Raising Awareness of Hearing Screening Before Birth

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: _____

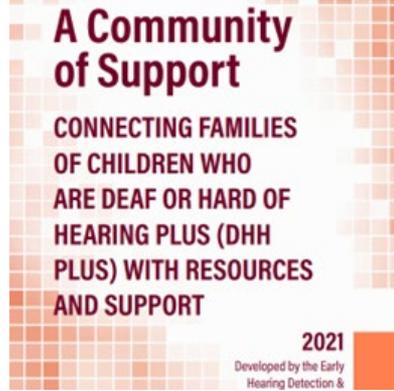


A Community of Support

CONNECTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING PLUS (DHH PLUS) WITH RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

2021

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



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

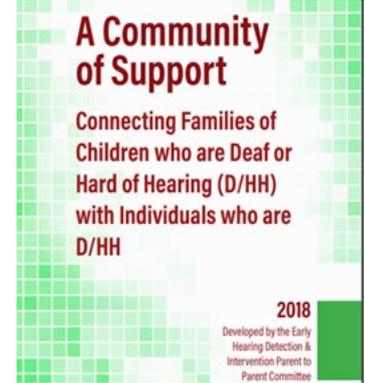


A Community of Support

Connecting Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) with Individuals who are D/HH

2018

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



Making a Plan for Your Child



IFSP Considerations for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Questions to Ask Series (ENT, Audiologist, etc.)
- Making a Plan for Your Child: IFSP Considerations

As a parent of a Deafblind child with complex needs, I wear many hats. Because of the lack of resources or knowledge, I am a parent, one-on-one intervener, communicator, and advocate for my child.

I would like to be just Mom.

Karonica, Mississippi

Contact us:

Teri Urban

vahandsandvoices@gmail.com

Sara Kennedy

sara@handsandvoices.org

EHDI P2P Co-Chair

