Nebraska Family Support Guide

A Resource for Families with Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Sarah Owen  2010
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Overview

There are many resources available to help you learn about hearing loss, understand communication options, explore treatment options, access education tools, discover advocacy efforts, and find support from other families or individuals who are hard of hearing. The purpose of the Nebraska Family Support Guide is to connect your family to these resources who can support you as you learn what it means to parent your child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

This guide will introduce your family to the various national, state, and regional resources available. Included in this guide is a table that will allow you to quickly reference resources based on focus, philosophy, and purpose. Additionally, this guide is separated into sections divided based on location and purpose. The guide begins with Nebraska Resources, a section containing information about resources that serve families of children with hearing loss as well as organizations that serve multi-disabilities within Nebraska. Following this is National Resources a section detailing the organizations available nationwide for individuals with hearing loss and their families in addition to organizations that serve a broad range of needs. After this are descriptions of additional web resources and electronic mailing lists known as listservs. Next is a listing of sources available for purchasing or borrowing materials such as assistive technology and multimedia supports.

As you explore the Nebraska Family Resource Guide, you may come up with questions, ideas, or concerns that you want to address and share with loved ones or professionals. We encourage you to write those down to help you with your journey as there is a lot of information to be explored.

This guide was designed to be useful through the various stages of your child’s life, with a focus on the early years. Some of the information will be helpful now, some you will find more helpful later. Additionally, although this guide was developed with families in mind, it may prove to be a valuable resource for other team members. Share this guide with your child’s teacher, audiologist, doctor, or other professionals.

The information in this guide was compiled by Sarah Owen, Mountain-Prairie Upgrade Partnership – Early Childhood Graduate Student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nebraska Hands & Voices, an unbiased not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support families of deaf and/or hard of hearing children, will be responsible for maintenance and updates to the guidebook. While comprehensive, this guidebook is not all inclusive, so if you know of any additional resources or ideas that would be useful additions to the Nebraska Family Support Guide, please contact Laryssa Payne at the following address:

Nebraska Hands & Voices  
PO Box 241229  
Omaha, NE 68124  
www.handsandvoicesne.org  
laryssa@handsandvoicesne.org  
402-578-8531
Activities and events organized and sponsored by the Regional Programs include:
Parent/Professional workshops and seminars, newsletters, sign language classes, assistive technology conferences, holiday parties, summer enrichment classes, play groups, dances, cooking classes, Deaf Awareness Week, the fall outing, Elementary Extravaganza, Space Camp, Storytelling Festival, Arts Festival, Optimist Communication Contest, and Camp Anderson.

Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)
Rhonda Fleischer, Liaison to NDE
1117 S. East Street
Hastings, NE 68901
rfleischer@esu9.org

Central/Western Partnership
Sue Czaplewski, Coordinator
Educational Service Unit #9
P.O. Box 2047
Hastings NE 68902-2047
(402) 463-5611 TTY/Voice
sczaplew@esu9.org

Metro Regional Program
Diane Meyer, Coordinator
Blumfield Elementary
10310 Mockingbird Drive
Omaha NE 68127
(402) 339-2090
Diane_Meyer@ralstonschools.org

Northeast Nebraska Regional Program
Jill Hoffart, Coordinator
Norfolk Public Schools
512 Philip Ave Box 139
Norfolk, NE 68702
(402) 644-2507
jhoffart@npsne.org

Southeast Nebraska Regional Program
Jill Bird, Coordinator
Rousseau Elementary
3701 S. 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
(402) 436-1896
jbird@lps.org
**Nebraska Resources**

**All Play Sports Complex for Children with Disabilities**
ALLPLAY Foundation
13414 Paul Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
Contact: Bruce W. Froendt  (402) 305-5020
bfroendt@allplay.org
Allplay.org

All Play Sports Complex can be used by everyone, but is designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. The park has several major features including: a "Miracle League" baseball field, a wheelchair softball field, a barrier-free playground, a zero entry water park, welcome center, shaded picnic areas, and new parking lot. The complex is open to the public and can be reserved by organizations.

**Answers 4 Families**
Center on Children, Families, and the Law
P.O. Box 880227
206 S. 13th Street, Suite 1000
Lincoln, NE 68588-0227
info@answers4families.org
http://www.answers4families.org

Answers4Families.org is Nebraska’s support and information connection for families and professionals seeking assistance. This web site is a collection of articles, resources and referrals organized by target group including Medically Handicapped Children’s Program, Medicare, School Health, and Special Needs. The site also includes way to connect and share, such as a discussion groups, forums, and a newsletter.

**The Auditory Consultant Resource Network (ACORN)**
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Lied Learning and Technology Center
425 North 30th Street
Omaha, Nebraska  68131
Contact: Christine Grassmeyer
(402) 452-5028 Fax
grassmeyerc@boystown.org

ACORN is an outreach program for professionals and educational systems serving children with hearing loss. ACORN provides a variety of on site/distance training opportunities delivered by audiologists, student assessment specialists, deaf educators, speech-language pathologists, educational interpreters, counselors and home-based early interventionists. Training is offered on listening skill development, assessment practices, understanding hearing loss and hearing technology and use of current educational practices. In addition to training, ACORN provides program evaluation, professional coaching and school district consultation.

**Assistive Technology for All**
Omaha Office:
1313 Farnam on the Mall
Omaha, NE 68102-0526
(402)595-1923
(877)0201-4141
www.AT4ALL.com

Cozad Office:
1910 Meridian Avenue
Cozad, NE 69130
(308)784-4525
(800)652-0033

AT4ALL offers equipment for loan, sale, or giveaway. It is a free service provided by the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership. There are a number of state agencies, private businesses, and lending programs along with individuals involved in listing items on the site.
Boys Town National Research Hospital Center for Childhood Deafness
555 North 30th Street (402) 498-6511 Voice
Omaha, NE 68131 www.boystownhospital.org

BTNRH is a research center that is focused on childhood hearing loss, language and learning. BTNRH provides clinical, surgical, and educational resources for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Areas of research include neurobiological studies of hearing, hereditary communication disorders, and clinical and behavioral studies of human communication. BTNRH also concentrates on the identification of hearing loss, fitting of hearing aids, and provision of educational material. The website includes a link to My Baby’s Hearing, an informational website for parents whose baby has been as deaf or hard of hearing.

http://www.babyhearing.org/index.asp

Camp Anderson at Camp Kitaki
14917 E. Park Hwy. 66 Contact: Wendy Herrold 402-436-1897
Louisville, NE 68037 wherrol@lps.org

Camp Anderson is for students who have completed 5th grade through to those who have graduated from high school. Students will participate in numerous outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, campfires, horseback riding, canoeing, dancing, cooking, and more!

The Early Development Network
301 Centennial Mall South (402) 471-2595
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509 (888) 806-6287
http://www.nde.state.ne.us/edn/

The Early Development Network provides services and supports that are designed based on the needs of children birth to age three and as it relates to the child's disability. A child is eligible for Early Development Network services if he or she is not developing typically, or has been diagnosed with a health condition that will affect his or her development. The goal of the Early Development Network is to provide coordinated services for Nebraska families as conveniently as possible. The program helps families to understand their child's disability and provides assistance in dealing with situations that interfere with the child's development. These services are designed to act on what families think is important for their child and family. The Network also can connect families with other families who have had similar experiences. The website includes local referral contacts, and Individualized Family Services Plan Tutorial, information about natural environments and inclusion, links to other resources, information about conferences, and federal reports.

Easter Seals Nebraska
Corporate Office
638 North 109th Plaza (402) 345-2200
Omaha, NE 68154-1722 (800) 650-9880
(402) 345-2200
(800) 650-9880

Lincoln Office
8055 "O" Street / Suite 119 (402) 483-0240
Lincoln, NE 68510 (888) 858-5069
(402) 483-0240
(888) 858-5069

Hastings Office
2727 West 2nd St / Suite 471 (402) 462-3031
Hastings, NE 68901 (800) 471-6425

Easter Seals helps children and adults with disabilities and special needs services connect to services designed to meet their individual needs. Teams of therapists, counselors and other health professionals help each person overcome obstacles to independence and reach his or her personal goals. Easter Seals Nebraska also includes families as active members of any program, and offers the support families need. Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities and their families address life's challenges and achieve personal goals, including medical rehabilitation, early intervention, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and hearing therapy, job training, child care, adult day services, and camping and recreation.
Hamilton Relay
Division of Hamilton Telecommunication
(800) 618-4781 V/TTY
Hamilton Relay Services Corporate Offices
402-694-5110 Fax
1006 12th St
info@hamiltonrelay.com
Aurora, NE 68818
http://www.hamiltonrelay.com

Hamilton Relay is a division of Hamilton Telecommunications, a diversified telecommunications service provider headquartered in Aurora, Nebraska. In the beginning, Hamilton Relay provided Traditional Relay Services (TRS) in the state of Nebraska. Over the years, Hamilton has expanded services, not only to the states where we provide TRS, but nationally as well providing the latest relay services. Hamilton Relay provides Traditional Relay and Captioned Telephone services, as well as Web CapTel and Internet Relay services across the nation. Services are available all day every day.

Monroe Meyer Institute
Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation
(402) 559-6430 (Phone)
985450 Nebraska Medical Center
1 (800) 656-3937 ext. 9-6430
Omaha, NE 68198-5450
(402) 559-5737 (Fax)
munroemeyer@unmc.edu

Welcome to the Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI). The Institute is located in Omaha, Nebraska on the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) campus. MMI is a federally designated University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. MMI specializes in providing services and support for persons with genetic disorders and developmental disabilities. Parents, teachers, therapists, and community service providers are welcome team members in the provision of services. This collaboration with MMI professionals helps ensure better coordination of services. Services are provided within MMI, at UNMC, in outreach clinics in the Omaha area, and throughout Nebraska. The University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute offers many special programs to support and enhance the lives of children and adults with special health care needs. These programs include non-prescriptive therapy activities, parent education, and other leisure and play activities. An individual can be referred to MMI by a physician or other health care professional, a school district, a social service agency, or a family member. Most of our services are covered by Medicaid, Medicare and other insurance programs. For more information or to schedule an appointment contact: Patient Information Office: (402) 559-6418 or the toll free number listed above.

Nebraska 2-1-1
1-877-557-2200
tperkins@nebraska.edu
http://www.ne211.org

Throughout Nebraska, there are resources and programs to support families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. One way to connect to these resources is through the use of 2-1-1. Nebraska 2-1-1 is a collaborative group of organizations throughout the state working to ensure that individuals have an easy means to search for health and human service agencies and programs in their area in order to find the help they need. Nebraska 2-1-1 can be accessed via the online database at ne211.org or by dialing 2-1-1 (1-877-557-2200 in some counties). Both methods are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Nebraska Deaf Gymnastics
Cahoy’s Gymnastic Training Center
(402) 203-0673
8524 Madison Street
kris@handsandvoicesne.org
Ralston NE 68127

This organization provides gymnastics training opportunities for children with a hearing loss who are 7 and older. The group trains a team that competes annually in the Nebraska Special Olympics.
The Nebraska State Board of Education made a commitment to enhance the educational programs that children who are deaf and hard of hearing receive through their local school districts. To accomplish this, Nebraska has been divided into four regions which each provide different opportunities to support the unique educational, social and emotional needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. They provide the following: Networking system, Social and educational opportunities for students, Increased professional development opportunities, Interpreter training, Resources to families, students, and schools, Access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing role models, Lending libraries.

**Nebraska’s Early Childhood Training Center**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Childhood Training Center</th>
<th>(402) 557-6880</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6949 S. 110th Street,</td>
<td>(402)557-6890 fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE 68128</td>
<td>1-800-89-CHILD</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="http://ectc.nde.ne.gov">http://ectc.nde.ne.gov</a></td>
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The Early Childhood Training Center is a statewide service of the Nebraska Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood, co-teaming with the Office of Special Education to provide support and training to all staff working with young children and their families. The Early Childhood Training Center supports the professional and career development of early care and education staff and provides information to parents. Services are designed for family child care providers, early childhood centers, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs, Head Start, programs serving young children with disabilities and their families, parenting and family literacy programs, early elementary school grades, and before and after school programs. The Early Childhood Training Center includes a Media Center that houses over 10,000 items.

**Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifespan Health Services, Division of Public Health</th>
<th>Contact: Jeff Hoffman</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>(402)471-6770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 Centennial Mall South</td>
<td>(402)471-1863 fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 95026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Hoffman@nebraska.gov">Jeffrey.Hoffman@nebraska.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln NE 68506-5026</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ehdi">www.dhhs.ne.gov/ehdi</a></td>
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The mission of the Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) is to develop, promote and support systems to ensure all newborns in Nebraska receive hearing screening and those who do not pass receive timely, family-centered evaluations and early intervention.” To ensure that newborns and infants identified with a hearing loss and their families are receiving appropriate and timely high quality services, the NE-EHDI has developed nine system goals focusing on newborn hearing screening, diagnostic evaluations, early intervention, medical home, family support, periodic hearing screenings, professional development, program development and EHDI promotion.

**Nebraska Hands & Voices**

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<tr>
<th>P.O. Box 241229</th>
<th>Contact: Kris Flott (402)202-0673</th>
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<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE 68124</td>
<td><a href="http://www.handsandvoicesne.org">http://www.handsandvoicesne.org</a></td>
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</table>

Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization committed to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing in an unbiased manner. Hands & Voices is a parent-drive, parent/professional collaborative group. The group encourages families to explore all communication options and to make an informed decision based on their individual preferences and needs. Resources and services include outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, lobbying efforts, parent to parent networking, a newsletter and the Nebraska Hands &Voices Playgroup (birth to five) to allow parents to connect to other parents who understand the parent factor.
Nebraska Children’s Hearing Aid Loaner Bank
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (402)472-0043
253 Barkley Memorial Speech & Hearing Center nchalb@unlnotes.org.unl.edu
Lincoln, NE 68583 http://www.unl.edu/barkley/nchalb/

The Nebraska Children’s Hearing Aid Loaner Bank is designed to provide loaner hearing aids to children newly identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing. All children up to 18 years of age will be considered to receive hearing aids for a period of 6 months. The loan period is designed to provide children with hearing aids while the family is securing personal amplification or awaiting Cochlear Implant surgery.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov

Lincoln Office
4600 Valley Road Suite 420 Scottsbluff Office
Lincoln NE 68510-4844 PO Box 1500
(402) 471-3593 v/tty 4500 Avenue I
Fax: (402) 471-3067 Scottsbluff NE 69363-4907
Toll Free: 1-800-545-6244 v/tty (308) 633-1207 v/tty
E-mail: ncdhh.lincoln@nebraska.gov Fax: (308) 632-1313

North Platte Office
200 South Silber Room 207	Omaha Office
North Platte NE 69101-4298 1313 Farnam On-The-Mall
(308) 535-6600 v/tty Omaha NE 68102-1836
Fax: (308) 535-8175 (402) 595-3991 v/tty
E-mail: ncdhh.northplatte@nebraska.gov E-mail: ncdhh.omaha@nebraska.gov

The mission of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) is to improve the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people of all ages by providing assistance, advocacy and access to services and information. NCDHH’s goals include expanding programs and services available to Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons throughout the state, implementing new programs through collaboration with consumer groups, the governor, legislature, organizations, institutions and agencies, and broadening the collection and dissemination of information on hearing loss and deafness. The website provides an explanation of assistive technology and equipment, information about mental health services, links hearing aid banks, and educational interpreter information.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Medically Handicapped Children’s Program Lincoln, NE 68509-5044
P.O. box 95044 (402) 471-8845

The Nebraska Medically Handicapped Children’s Program provides specialized medical services for families with children with disabilities or ongoing health care needs. Services may include services coordination/case management, specialty medical team evaluations, access to specialty physicians, and payment of treatment services.
PTI Nebraska provides training, information and support to families in Nebraska with a child birth through 26 with special needs. Workshops and printed/electronic resources are provided for parents, family members, and school personnel and interested others at no cost. PTI Nebraska's staff includes parent/professionals who are available to talk to parents and professionals about special education, other services and disability specific information.

Nebraska Resources and Referral System
Center on Children Families and the Law (800) 746-8420
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (402) 472-0844
206 S. 13th St. Suite 1000
Lincoln, NE 68588-0227

The Nebraska Resources and Referral System (NRRS) is a statewide database created with input from Nebraska families, service providers and organizations. The NRRS provides 1-800 numbers as well as web sites and email contacts to help families connect faster to the services they are seeking. This database provides individuals the opportunity to have a real choice in the diverse selection of service providers by allowing users to more easily locate and compare services of local and state agencies.

Ollie Webb Center Inc. (402) 342-4418
1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 122
Omaha, NE 68105
info@olliewebbinc.org

The mission of The Arc of Omaha is to improve and enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities and to provide information, education and support to their families. The Arc of Omaha is a resource for current information on disabilities and disability law. The staff monitors state, local and federal legislation affecting people with disabilities. The Parent to Parent Parents program offers emotional and informational support to parents of children with developmental disabilities through a one-to-one match. Parents often have questions and concerns that are difficult for their family, friends and professionals to respond to and understand. Just Friends is a peer mentoring and friendship program that gives adolescents with a developmental disability the opportunity to participate in social and recreational activities with teens that do not have a developmental disability. Project II is a program for adults with developmental disabilities to learn about self-advocacy, take educational classes and enjoy social activities. The PRISM (Parent Resource Information and Support Meetings) Project provides families of children and adults with developmental disabilities support and informational programs seven times a year. The Quality of Life Trust is designed for parents to provide for personalized advocacy and emotional and social support for their children through their estates.

Omaha Hearing School Contact: Karen Rossi (402) 558-1546 v/tty
1110 North 66th Street (402) 558-1017 fax
Omaha, Nebraska 68132 ohs@hearingschool.org
http://www.oraldeafed.org/schools/omaha/

The Omaha Hearing School is a private, coed school that provides auditory oral education to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Omaha Hearing School houses parent/infant programs, preschool programs, kindergarten, elementary programs (grades 1-3), and clinical services. Clinical services include speech and language, audiology, assessment, and hearing screenings. Additional programs include summer sessions, professional outreach, and graduate student training.
S.E.E.D.S. of Understanding:
Social, Emotional & Educational Development Seminars
Lied Learning and Technology Center
Boys Town National Research Hospital
425 North 30th Street, Omaha, Nebraska  68131
Contact: Teresa McEvoy
Phone: (402) 452-5042
mcevoyt@boystown.org

A series of informal conversations and workshops designed for families of children with hearing loss. The meetings focus on providing families with practical suggestions and families sharing stories in an environment of acceptance and support. Boys Town team members and community professionals also provide up-to-date information and engage in discussions about fostering social, emotional and educational development in a child with a hearing loss.

Sports for Kids Foundation
1441 Canyon Drive
Chadron, NE 69337
sportsforkids@msn.com
http://www.sportsforkids.org

The mission the Sports for Kids Foundation is to assist physically and emotionally challenged children through sports-related fundraisers. Proceeds raised from Sports for Kids events provide specific forms of assistance to the beneficiaries, with a primary focus on children whose families have limited resources available to meet the child's needs. Gifts presented to date have include wheelchairs, nebulizers, medicines, therapy sessions, camp experiences, "wish gifts", hearing aids, and glasses, as well as VCR's, educational videos, and hearing and communication testing equipment for schools and hospitals. The Sports For Kids Foundation has also underwritten the costs for several children to participate in local, state, and national athletic events for challenged persons.
National Resources

**Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (A.G. Bell)**

3417 Volta Place NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
(202) 337-5220 Voice  
parents@agbell.org  
http://www.agbell.org

A membership organization and information center focused on helping families, health care providers, and education professionals understand childhood hearing loss, the importance of early diagnosis, and the auditory approach. Parent Section concentrates on programs including Children’s Legal Advocacy, Financial Aid, Leadership Enrichment Adventure Program (LEAP), Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT), Parent Advocacy Training (PAT), and a Parent Recognition Program. Resources on the website include newsletters, journals, events calendar, and information relating to oral education, advocacy, and the use of technology.

**American Academy of Audiology (AAA)**

11730 Plaza America Drive, Suite 300  
Reston, VA 20190  
(703) 790-8466 Voice  
(703) 790-8631 Fax  
info@audiology.org  
www.audiology.org

The world’s largest professional organization concentrated on audiology. The focus of the organization is to promote quality hearing and balanced care through the advancement of the profession of audiology. AAA promotes leadership, advocacy, professional development, research, education, and public awareness concerning hearing disorders and audiology.

**American Society for Deaf Children**

3820 Hartzdale Drive  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 703-0073 Voice  
asdc@deafchildren.org  
www.deafchildren.org

An independent, non-profit organization developed as a parent-helping-parent network. ASDC focuses total communication, respect for the Deaf, and the importance of deaf/hard of hearing role models, education, and family involvement. The organization emphasizes that parents have the right and responsibility to be their child’s primary decision maker and advocates. ASCD has a will loan materials and captioned media through their lending library.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3289  
(301) 296-5799 Voice  
(301) 296-8580 Fax  
www.asha.org  
E-mail: actioncenter@asha.org

ASHA is professional, scientific, and credentialing association for audiologists, speech-language pathologists and speech, language and hearing scientists. Their focus is to empower and support professionals in making effective communication accessible and achievable for all individuals. ASHA provides continuing education, professional development, certification, conferences, and advocacy information for professionals and the public.
Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation
3109 Beaver Creek Lane
Springfield, Illinois 62712
1-800-795-0824 Voice
www.ciafonline.org

CIAF is a non-profit organization focused on providing information, resources, and support to prospective cochlear implant recipients and their families. Provides information on technology, manufacturers, implant centers, and support groups.

Cued Language Network of America
(866)446-3855
info@cuedlanguage.org
http://www.cuedlanguage.org

The Cued Language Network of America supports both parents and professionals in implementing cued languages in home, educational and professional settings. CLNA distributes a free video with information about cueing, and offers retreats for families and instructors.

Families for Hands and Voices
PO Box 3093
Boulder CO 80307
(303) 300 - 9763
(866)422-0422
parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org
http://www.handsandvoices.org

Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization committed to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing in an unbiased manner. Hands & Voices is a parent/professional collaborative group. This parent-driven group encourages families to explore all communication options and to make an informed decision based on their individual preferences and needs. Resources and services include outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, lobbying efforts, parent to parent networking, a newsletter, and Guide By Your Side. GBYS is links trained Parent Guides to families in order to provide emotional support and unbiased information. This national organization is the parent organization to the local Nebraska chapter and provides support and training to Nebraska’s local chapter. See “Nebraska Hands & Voices” listed in the Nebraska section for more information on the local Nebraska chapter.

The Fathers Network
16120 NE 8th St.
Bellevue, WA 98008-3937
(425) 747-4004 ext.218
http://www.fathersnetwork.org

The Fathers Network (TFN) advocates for and provides resources and support to all men who have children with special needs. TFN works to develop statewide and national databases of fathers from diverse ethnic, racial, and geographic backgrounds in order to provide father support and mentoring programs. TFN offers curriculum, conferences, workshops, newsletters, and e-newsletters available in English and Spanish.

Iowa School for the Deaf
3501 Harry Langdon Blvd.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)366-0571 v/tty
(712)366-3218 fax
Iowa School for the Deaf serves students across Iowa and Nebraska who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, including those with multiple disabilities, preschool through age 21, in compliance with state and federal regulations and laws. ISD prepares students for community participation as successful and productive adult citizens, with skills comparable to their hearing peers. ISD incorporates specialized programming and services with intensive, individualized instruction and innovative use of technology. Students with all communication methods, abilities and devices are welcome at ISD. The students vary in their hearing levels, from those with mild losses to those with severe/ profound losses. Cochlear implants and hearing are prevalent; and some students do not use any devices. Speech language pathologists strategize with students to keep their residual voicing abilities. Hearing teachers speak and sign simultaneously and American Sign Language is used on campus.
The goal of the Clerc Center is to ensure that all children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families have early and ongoing access to resources that support the development of linguistic competence. It offers information and resources on the educational, linguistic, social, and emotional development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It also provides leadership in the identification, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based instructional practices, strategies, and resources. Additionally, the Clerc Center provides technical assistance, promotes training, and maintains two demonstration schools.

John Tracy Clinic
806 West Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 748-5481 Voice
(213) 749-1651 Fax
(213) 747-2924 TTY
(800) 522-4582 Toll Free
pals@jtc.org
www.jtc.org

John Tracy Clinic is a private, non-profit education center with the goal to offer hope, guidance and encouragement to families of infants and preschool children with hearing losses. JTC provide free, parent-centered services focused on facilitating spoken language environments for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

Mothers United For Moral Support: National Parent to Parent Network
Julie J. Gordon
150 Custer Court
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301-1243
(920)336-5333
(920)339-0995 fax
1-877-336-5333
mums@netnet.net
http://www.netnet.net/mums/

Mothers United For Moral Support: National Parent to Parent Network (MUMS) is a national Parent-to-Parent organization for parents or care providers of a child with any disability, disorder, chromosomal abnormality or health condition. MUMS' main purpose is to provide support to parents in the form of a networking system that matches them with other parents whose children have the same or similar condition. MUMS also connects parents with support groups dealing with their child's specific disability or assists them in forming a group. If possible matches are made according to age, geographical location, gender, and severity of the symptoms.

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3819
(301)587-1788 Voice
(301)587-1789 TTY
(301)587-1791 FAX
NADinfo@nad.org
http://www.nad.org

NAD is a nonprofit federation with the mission to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America. The focus of NAD maintains the preservation and promotion of American Sign Language as a core value. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering the breadth of a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more.
This mission of National Council of Hispano Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCHDHH) is to provide support and services to Hispano deaf of all ages. NCHDHH goals include educating the mass media, advocacy, mentoring, support, and promotion of educational, cultural, economic and social opportunities for deaf Hispanos.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (301) 496-7243 Voice
Communication Disorders (301) 402-0252 TTY
National Institutes of Health http://www.nidcd.nih.gov
31 Center Drive, MSC 2320 E-mail: wengerj@nidcd.nih.gov
Bethesda, MD 20892-2320

NIDCD is one of the Institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The goal of NIH research is to acquire new knowledge to help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability. NIH is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDCD has focused national attention on disorders of human communication and has contributed to advances in biomedical and behavioral research.

National Cued Speech Association 1-800-459-3529 (v/tty)
5619 Mclean Drive info@cuedspeech.org
Bethesda, MD 20814-1021 www.cuedspeech.org

The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) promotes communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. NCSA serves as a source for information regarding the use of Cued Speech as a mode of communication by disseminate the results of research through peer-reviewed journals and available media and advising parents and professionals about the use of Cued Speech for communication, language, and learning needs. NCSA vision is to educate, advocate, and provide support for families and professionals regarding the use of Cued Speech. Resources available online include a bookstore, a link to international resources, the Cued Speech Journal, information on Cued camps, profiles on adult cuers, and legal resources. NCSA publishes a resource book and newsletter.

Oral Deaf Education 1-877-672-5889 TTT
1-877-ORAL DEAF (1-877-672-5332) www.oraldeafed.org

An information center focused supporting the education of children using the oral approach. Free materials are available for parents, educators, audiologists, speech pathologists, and health professionals, including handbooks, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and suggested readings.

The Sibling Support Project Contact: Don Meyer (206) 297-6368
A Kindering Center Program (509) 752-6789 fax
6512 23rd Ave NW, #213 http://www.siblingsupport.org
Seattle, WA 98117

The Sibling Support Project is a national program dedicated to the interests of brothers and sisters of individuals with special health and development needs. It includes newsletters, workshops and resources for and about brothers and sisters.
The Signing Exact English (SEE) Center of the Advancement of Deaf Children
P.O. Box 1181 (562) 795-6614 Fax
Los Alamitos, California 90720 seecenter@seecenter.org
(562) 430-1467 V/TDD www.seecenter.org
(562) 795-6614 Fax

The SEE Center is a nonprofit organization that works with parents and educators of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The goals of the SEE Center include the promotion of early identification and intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, the development of improved English skills, the understanding of the principles of Signing Exact English and its uses, the provision of information to parents on deafness and related topics, and the facilitation of positive development of self-concept in children who are deaf by promoting the interaction of the child and family with both the deaf and hearing communities. The SEE Center offers a new parent packet which includes basic information regarding statistics, normal language development, hearing aids, organizations, publications, speech and language.

Sorenson Communications
Corporate Office Phone: 801.287.9400
4192 South Riverboat Road Fax: 801.297.9401
Salt Lake City, Utah 84123 http://www.sorenson.com

Sorenson Communications is a provider of communication technology including video relay service, IP relay, video remote interpreting, and videophones. The Relay Service enables deaf and hard of hearing callers to conduct video relay conversations through a qualified American Sign Language interpreter.
Websites

The following section lists quality websites that can serve to be a valuable resource tool for your family. However, this list only contains a limited number of the resource available on the internet. Additional website listings may also be found throughout the national and state resources sections. Furthermore, you may find many more helpful websites by using search engines. If you do not have access to internet in your home, there may be several locations in your community that offer internet services, such as your local library, public school, or community center.

American Sign Language
http://www.signmedia.com

Provides a variety of print and video resources about the American Deaf community, language, and culture.

Auditory Neuropathy Information
http://auditoryneuropathy.tripod.com

Provides information about Auditory Neuropathy, AN, for parents of children diagnosed with this atypical hearing loss.

Better Hearing Institute
http://www.betterhearing.org

This site hosts the not-for-profit group with the goal of educating the public, providing a communication forum, sharing success stories, and advocating for individuals with hearing loss. The group produces and disseminates guides, including “A Guide to your Child’s Hearing”.

Choices for Parents
http://www.choicesforparents.org

This site provides information, support, and resources to parents of children with a newly identified hearing loss. Sections include stories from parents, facts about hearing loss, communication options, assistive technologies, early intervention, educational options, resources, the role of the pediatrician, and a glossary.

Cued Speech Information
http://www.cuedspeech.info/

This site provides information about cued speech and discusses misconceptions. There are links provided to product websites and national, local, and international organizations that support cued speech.

Cochlear Implants: Navigating a Forest of Information…One Tree at a Time
http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/kidsworldDeafNet/e-docs/CI/index.html

This site provides a variety of resources on cochlear implants including definitions, candidacy, the decision-making process, insurance, surgical considerations, educational settings and more.
The Deaf Resource Library  
http://www.deaflibrary.org/  

The Deaf Resource Library is a virtual library, or an online collection of reference material and links. The intention of the site is to educate and inform people about Deaf culture; as well as other deaf and hard of hearing related topics. It includes many links to other national, local, and international sites.

Deaf.com  
http://www.deaf.com  

Deaf.com provides information and resources about the Deaf community, its way of life, and shares perspectives on topics including: language, education, and family life.

Deaf Linx  
http://www.deaflinx.com  

Deaf Linx provides information about the Deaf culture and community, technology, sign language, education, and family connections.

Educational Audiology Resource  
http://www.utdallas.edu/~thib/EARRINGFINAL/EARRINGWEB_files/frame.htm  

Educational Audiology Resource provides audio demonstrations of cochlear implants, FM systems, and types of hearing loss. Also includes a power point presentation (Educational Needs of Students with Hearing Loss) that illustrates the audiogram and effects of hearing loss including a spelling test with simulated hearing loss.

Family Village  
http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/index.html  

The Family Village integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the individuals with disabilities, their families, and those that provide services and support.

Genetics of Infant Hearing Loss  
http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/genetics.htm  

The Genetics of Infant Hearing Loss website provides information and related links on genetics and infant hearing loss. This page is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities website.

Hand Speak  
http://www.handspeak.com  

Hand Speak is a subscription-based online American Sign Language (ASL) learning system that includes a dictionary, lessons, finger spelling resources, and grammar tools. Topics include Baby Sign, International Sign Language, fingerspelling, Sign storytelling, and art.
Hearing Loss Association of America  
http://www.hearingloss.org/aboutus/index.asp

HLAA provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA is working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and raise public awareness about the need for prevention and the importance of regular hearing screenings throughout life. This site is primarily aimed at those that have loss as an adult who are dealing with the transition from hearing to not hearing. It aims to provide advocacy, support and information to provide those individuals to handle the change in their lives.

Hearing 101  
http://www.hearing101.com

Hearing Aids 101 is an independent website designed to help consumers learn about the wide variety of hearing aids and related products on the market today. This site provides information about the latest innovations in hearing aids technology, as well as tips for shopping for hearing and assistive learning devices.

Kidsource  
http://www.kidsource.com/nfpa/social.html

Kidsource contains clear and concise information for families on the rules and regulations for applying for Social Security disability benefits for children with disabilities, including hearing loss.

Kids World Deaf Net  
http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/KidsWorldDeafNet/index.html

Kids World Deaf Net is a national communication network for parents and professionals involved in the education of deaf and hard of hearing children. Includes a virtual library with information on a wide range of topics.

League for the Hard of Hearing  
http://www.lhh.org

League for the Hard of Hearing is a rehabilitation agency for infants, children and adults with a hearing loss. It includes information on audiology, communication therapy, research, and assistive listening devices.

Listen Foundation  
http://www.listenfoundation.org

The Listen Foundation is dedicated to teaching children who are hearing impaired to listen and speak.

Listen-Up  
http://www.listen-up.org

The Listen-Up website provides information and products geared to the special needs of hearing impaired children and their families.

My Baby’s Hearing  
http://www.babyhearing.org

Complied by the Boys Town National Research Hospital, this website provides information for new parents about the infant hearing screening, steps to take after diagnosis, explanations of hearing loss, hearing aid choices, cochlear implants, causes of hearing loss, language and learning, and parent to parent resources.
National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management  
http://infanthearing.org

This site provides information on Early Detection of Hearing in Infants (EDHI) programs throughout the nation. It provides families with a list of useful websites including general information, communication and education, health and development and family support organizations.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)  
http://www.nichcy.org/idea.htm

Contains an in-depth account of the past and present developments of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)  
http://www.nectac.org/partc/partc.asp

NECTAC provides an overview of the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities as set forth by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 as well as many other technical and legislative documents.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)  
http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing

NIDCD provides information on a wide range of topics related to hearing loss including causes, issues specific to infants and children, communication options, and ear infections. Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Oral Deaf Education  
http://oraldeafed.org

Provides a parent resource kit and videos about oral deaf education and a list of oral deaf schools in North America.

Parenting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
http://deafness.about.com/od/growingupdeafhoh/Education_and_Parenting.htm

Provides links to many materials, resources, on-line chat rooms, and internet sites related to deafness.

Zero to Three National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families  
http://www.zerotothree.org

Provides information and materials in all aspects of development during the first three years of life; extensive links to other resources.
Listservs

A listserv is an electronic mailing list. By sending a request to the email contacts listed, you are able to subscribe to the list in order to begin to receive emails about various topic related to hearing loss. Depending on the Listserv, emails may be newsletters, announcements, or discussions.

ACCESS
Closed-captioning, audio descriptions, and other media access issues
Subscription address: listserv@maelstrom.stjohns.edu
Post messages to: access@maelstrom.stjohns.edu

ASL-L Deaf culture
Subscription address: listserv@connectamerica.com
Post messages to: asl-l@connectamerica.com

BVI-PARENTS
Blind, Visually-Impaired Parents. BVI-Parents is a list for parents of children who are blind or visually impaired to network and share ideas and experiences.
Subscription address: BVI-PARENTS-subscribe@associate.com

BVI-TEENS
Blind, Visually-Impaired Teens. The BVI-Teens list gives teenagers and older children who are blind or visually impaired a place to network and chat or discuss issues about which are of concern to them.
Subscription address: BVI-TEENS-subscribe@associate.com

BEYOND-HEARING
Hard-of-hearing and oral deaf people, especially SHHH and ALDA
Message: sub beyond-hearing yourfirstname yourlastname
Subscription address: majordomo@acpub.duke.edu
Post messages to: beyond-hearing@acpub-duke.edu

DEAFKIDS
For kids ages 3-19 only
Subscription address: listserv@sjuvm.stjohns.edu
Post messages to: deafkids@sjuvm.stjohns.edu

DEAF-MAGAZINE
Weekly magazine for the deaf
Subscription address: listserv@listserv.deaf-magazine.org
Post messages to: articles@deaf-magazine.org

DEAFSPORTS
Subscription address: listserv@gallux.gallaudet.edu
Post messages to: deafsports@gallux.gallaudet.edu

DEAFCUL
Deafness and deaf culture
Subscription address: listserv@siucvmb.siu.edu
Post messages to: deaf-l@siucvmb.siu.edu

EDUDEAF
Curriculum, teaching strategies, IEPs, for educators of the deaf
Subscription address: listserv@lsv.uky.edu
Post messages to: deaf-l@lsv.uky.edu

GESTURE-L
Gestures, gesture systems, and alternate sign languages
Subscription address: listserv@coombs.anu.edu.au
Post messages to: gesture-l@coombs.anu.edu.au
MRDEAF-L
Education of the mentally retarded deaf
Subscription address: majordomo@bga.com
Subscription command: sub mrdeaf-l yourfirstname yourlastname
Post messages to: mrdeaf-l@bga.com

PARENTDEAF-HH
Parenting deaf/hard-of-hearing children
Subscription address: listserv@listserv.kent.edu
Subscription command: sub parentdeaf-hh firstname lastname
Post messages to: parentdeaf-hh@listserv.kent.edu

SERVICE-DOGS
About guide/hearing/service and other assistance dogs, including hearing dogs
Subscription address: majordomo@acpub.duke.edu
Post messages to: service-dogs@acpub.duke.edu

TFA
Telephone for All; an international news service for the deaf or hard of hearing.
Post messages to: rbweinstock@gallau.gallaudet.edu

VOCEVAL
Vocational evaluation and adaptive technology
Subscription address: listserv@sjuvm.stjohns.edu
Post messages to: voceval@sjuvm.stjohns.edu
ADCO Hearing Products, Inc.
4242 S. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80113
1800-762-0851
sales@adcohearing.com
http://www.adcohearing.com

ADCO provides individuals, businesses, and agencies with a comprehensive range of communication products and services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Products and services include telephones/TTY, cellular devices, video phones, signaling systems, clocks, personal listening devices, ear and hearing care and protection, multi-media, and sign language novelties. Catalogs and e-flyers can be requested online.

Assistive Technology for All
Omaha Office:
1313 Farnam on the Mall
Omaha, NE 68102-0526
402.595.1923
877.201.4141
www.AT4ALL.com

Cozad Office:
1910 Meridian Avenue
Cozad, NE 69130
308.784.4525
800.652.0033

AT4ALL offers equipment for loan, sale, or giveaway. It is a free service provided by the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership. There are a number of state agencies, private businesses, and lending programs along with individuals involved in listing items on the site.

Butte Publications
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FAX: Toll Free: 866-412-8883 or Direct: 503-693-9526

Butte Publications is a mail order company that offers products through an annual catalog, website, and exhibits at conferences. Butte Publications focuses on educational materials for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, their teachers, parents, and professionals in the field. Topics include signing, language development, cued speech, health, speech and hearing, special education, ESL, early intervention, and early childhood education.

The Funding Toolkit for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
4215 Ave I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Contact: Laura Barrett (308) 635-3696
lbarrett@esu13.org

This is a resource for parents about different funding opportunities in Nebraska for assistance covering the costs associated with hearing aids, cochlear implants and other needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Funding Toolkit available through your regional program, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, and online through the Early Development Network at http://www.nde.state.ne.us/edn/Funding_Toolkit.pdf

Harris Communications
15155 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
(800) 825-6758 Voice
(800) 825-9187 TTY
info@harrismcomm.com
http://www.harrismcomm.com

Harris Communication produces a catalog of products for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Products include alarm clocks, assistive listening devices, conference systems, signaling systems, smoke/fire/CO detectors, telephones, TTYs, TV amplifiers, videophones, books and media, gifts, and novelty items. There is a section devoted to children’s products and materials. Catalog and newsletter requests can be made online.
Lending Libraries

Captioned Media Program
800-237-6213
http://www.cfv.org

The CMP loans closed captioned videos. These may not be needed until after your child can read but you can find some that use sign language. It is free and they deliver through the US mail.

Central/Western Nebraska Partnership Lending Library
P.O. Box 2047
Hastings, NE 68902-2047
402-463-5611
podonnel@esu9.org

The CWNP library lends materials to teachers and parents of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing within the CWNP region. Materials include

Metro Regional Program Lending Library
6224 H street
Omaha, NE 68117
(402) 593-0710 v/tty
NM_kraft@ralstonschools.org
http://www.nebraskamrp.com

The MRP library lends materials to teachers and parents of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing within the MRP region. Materials include books, videos, magazines, CD/ROMs, technology, multimedia, professional development items including LiPS and S.E.E.

Nebraska Early Childhood Training Center - Media Center
6949 S. 110th Street, Omaha, NE
http://ectc.nde.ne.gov
402-557-6885
Fax: 402-557-6890
Toll-free in Nebraska: 1-800-89-CHILD

The Early Childhood Training Center's Media Center is home to over 10,000 items—books, videotapes, DVDs, journals, and newsletters—that address subjects such as early childhood care and education, child development, parents and families, children with special needs, language and literacy, guidance, child abuse and neglect, health and nutrition, safety, activities, and other diverse topics. We also have a small collection of children's books which address issues such as death, divorce, disabilities, and siblings.

Nebraska Transition Library
http://www.nebraskatransitionlibrary.net/
translib@esu10.org
Contact: Patsy Roenfeldt (308) 784-4525

The Nebraska Transition library lends materials to teachers and parents of individuals with disabilities, as well as non-profit organizations working with students with disabilities. The materials were purchased with federal funds to support Nebraska educators and parents. Topics include curriculum, games, social skills, academic skills, life skills, and financial aid.

Southeast Nebraska Regional Program Lending Library
Rousseau Elementary School
3701 South 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-436-1897

The SNRP library lends materials to teachers and parents of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing within the SNRP region. Materials include videos/DVDs, books, pamphlets, workbooks, assessment kits, CD/ROMs, flashcards, and games. Topics include assessment, audiology, children's, materials, Cochlear Implants, Communication References, Curricula, Deaf Studies, Education, Language and Psychology, Education and Language Teaching Aides, Interpreting, Parent Resources, Parent Resources (Communication Options), Parent Resources (Sign Language), Policy and Law, Sign Language Curricula, Sign Language Resources, Sign Language Resources for Teachers, Technology/Assistive Devices, and Transition.