



Serving our community.  
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# SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

Empowering kids who are deaf or hard of hearing.

# You're not alone

Over 90% of babies born with a hearing loss are born to hearing people. Like you, they have no experience of deafness and no friends or family with experience raising children with a hearing loss.

The birth of a baby is a life-changing event by itself and the whole family needs time to adjust to this new family member. But, having a baby with a hearing loss means you are suddenly confronted with the need to make decisions about:



## Technology

Can the child access some hearing with a hearing aid or cochlear implant? How much can they access? What does it mean for their development?



## Communication

Sign language or speech? What if you want both? Is that possible?



## Education

What support, does my child need? Mainstream or specialist school? Which schools provide the best support for deaf and hard of hearing children?

The whole process can be overwhelming and isolating as you try to inform yourself and make the right decision for your child. You may be experiencing a range of emotions that come with finding out that your child has a hearing loss. You are not alone.

We work with parents and families of children with a hearing loss. We can support you to:

- Connect with parents of children with a hearing loss who have already been through the experience
- Navigate the system – get the best advice and services for your child
- Access supports available through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Connect you with other support organisations and services



## Parent to Parent Mentor Program

Parenting is a difficult yet rewarding challenge. Families with children with a hearing loss often feel isolated with relatively few contacts with whom to compare and share their experiences.

We offer the Parent to Parent Mentor Program. New parents are paired with more experienced parents of children with a hearing loss. It is an opportunity for you to share your experiences, seek advice and discuss your child's future prospects.

### The three-month program will:



Match you with an appropriate mentor taking into account your location, cultural preference and type of hearing loss



Provide support through an appropriate channel – face-to-face, phone, SMS, email



Encourage mentors to provide support weekly for the first month and then regular contact for the next two months.

“I had a mentor three years ago when my daughter was diagnosed. At my darkest time, she guided me and provided lots of information about deafness, and we still keep in contact two years later. My child has developed so well and I am happy to be a guide or give other families support. I speak Mandarin and English so it doesn't matter which language the family speaks, I can use both to support them.”

**Xin, a Parent to Parent Mentor**

“While all my friends have been supportive, it is really only people who have been in your shoes that can know what you are going through.”

**Mother of 3-month old deaf daughter**



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For more information or to access any of our parent support services, please contact our Program Coordinator, Teresa on [Teresa.Thomson@deafconnect.org.au](mailto:Teresa.Thomson@deafconnect.org.au)

[www.deafconnect.org.au/therapy-and-family-services](http://www.deafconnect.org.au/therapy-and-family-services)