

## New Jersey Resources

Department of Human Services  
<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices>

Department of Health <https://www.nj.gov/health>

Department of Education <https://www.nj.gov/education>

## Early Intervention Resources

Family Matters Website  
<https://www.thefamilymatterswebsite.org>

Center for Parent Information and Resources  
<https://www.parentcenterhub.org>

NJ Early Intervention System  
<https://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/index.shtml>

## Language Development Resources

The National ASL and English Bilingual Consortium for Early Childhood Education <http://www.bilingualece.org>

The Standardized Visual Communication and Sign Language Checklist for Signing Children  
<http://www.signlang-assessment.info>

Reaching Individual Potential through Personal Language Experience <https://ripplelanguage.com>

Language First <https://languagefirstlab.com>

Handbook of Language and Literacy Development

What to Listen for in a High Quality, Language Rich, Learning Environment

## Advocacy Resources

New Jersey Association for the Deaf (NJAD)  
<https://www.deafnjad.org>

Hearing Loss America Association (HLAA)  
<https://www.hearingloss.org>

Gallaudet University VL2 <https://www3.gallaudet.edu>

American Society for the Deaf Children (ASDC)  
<https://deafchildren.org>

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)  
<https://spanadvocacy.org>

NJ Parent Link <http://www.njparentlink.nj.gov>



New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



State of New Jersey  
Phil Murphy, Governor  
Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor



Department of Human Services  
Carole Johnson, Commissioner

# Choosing A Child Care Center for a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child





Did you know that your deaf and hard of hearing child can receive language acquisition services through an ASL Deaf Language Associate?

## Considerations for Child Care Selection

Here are some considerations that may help you when selecting a child care setting that will meet your child's needs:

**Specialized Child Care Centers.** Check with DDHH or your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) center. Some centers may have other children that are also deaf or hard of hearing. Your child can make friends with deaf and hard of hearing peers.

**Staff to Student Ratio.** A low student to staff ratio may mean that staff can give your child more attention.

**Noise Reduction.** Check out the physical environment. Carpeted rooms, wall coverings, draperies, closed doors, and ceilings all help absorb sound, which will help your child hear their teachers and peers more clearly. Shades, curtains, and indirect lighting help your child see visual cues and help them learn. Make sure the classroom keeps media, music, and background noise to a minimum. Use of visual pictures around the classroom also help.

**Staff Receptiveness.** Get a sense of the staff's willingness to listen, learn, and work with your child. Show the staff and kids how to get your child's attention and how your child communicates. Will the staff learn and help teach some sign language? Do they understand listening and spoken language development? Do they feel comfortable troubleshooting basic battery or device issues? The more open the staff is to your concerns, the more likely your child is to succeed.

**Past Experience.** Has anyone on the staff worked with a deaf or hard of hearing child before? With a special needs child?

**Technology.** Is the staff willing/able to use an FM system or microphone to help your child better access what they are saying? If applicable, is the center set up to adopt and use technology that will help your child? Make sure that the staff feels comfortable troubleshooting basic issues like equipment checks and battery changes. DDHH partners with an educational audiologist at the Marie

Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) that can help with these issues.

**Emergency Plan.** The child care center should learn how to respond and help your child in an emergency: fire, extreme weather, etc. This might include installing visual fire alarms. Are they willing to make changes and take steps to make the environment safer for your child? Can they handle any special medical needs?

## Early Intervention (EI)

Separately and in addition to child care, your child and family can receive support and services from New Jersey's Early Intervention System (NJ EIS). Services can be either home-based or in the day care setting. The Department of Health implements the NJ EIS, which is a statewide system of services for infants and toddlers with delays or disabilities. It is for kids from birth to age three and their families.

**Are we eligible? How do we receive EI services? What type of EI services can my child receive? How much do services cost?**

In NJ, children with a diagnosed hearing loss are automatically eligible for EI. Find more answers from the Department of Health's FAQs, the NJ Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives' (NJREIC) or from ARC Family Institute of NJ's Fact Sheet.

*Read here to learn more about this exciting new program funded by the NJ Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH). DDHH supports families in their communication journey with their deaf or hard of hearing child.*

## Equal Access for your Child

When choosing a child care facility, be sure that your deaf or hard of hearing child has the same opportunities to language and learning as their hearing peers do.

Choose a facility that you are comfortable with and whose staff will support you in your journey with your child.

When it comes to communication access, it is important for your child to have strong language role models, and to learn in an environment where they can understand the language being used, both visually and acoustically. Understanding what is being communicated during all waking hours is especially important for a deaf or hard of hearing child in their early years.

