

**Equipment Distribution Program:** Families with low incomes may benefit from equipment in our equipment distribution program to support/maximize the independence of any member in their household who is deaf or hard of hearing. Some examples are a visual smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, amplified and captioned telephones, baby alert monitors, and more. Please see here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/)

**Wireless Devices Pilot Program:** DDHH offers a limited supply of wireless devices to families with deaf and hard of hearing children who meet income requirements to access critical information, services and supports being delivered remotely through online platforms that include DDHH's language instruction services, telehealth services, emergency information, telecommunications, and other vital communication needs. Please see here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/wirelessproject/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/wirelessproject/)

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training:** DDHH provides training to healthcare and social service providers, schools, and others on awareness of the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. Refer your provider to our training request form here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/)



### Contact DDHH

800-792-8339 Toll Free in New Jersey

609-588-2648

609-558-2528 Fax

[DDHH.communications2@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDHH.communications2@dhs.nj.gov)

### References:

- [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3164118/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3164118/)
- [clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/national-resources/info/info-to-go/language-and-communication/faq-asl-spoken-english.html](http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/national-resources/info/info-to-go/language-and-communication/faq-asl-spoken-english.html)

## The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Language Instruction Program for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Children Ages 0 - 5



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

Department of Human Services  
Sarah Adelman, Acting Commissioner

# Language Instruction Program for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Children Ages 0 - 5



**It is important** for deaf or hard of hearing children to have access to early language exposure during the most critical years of brain development – birth to age 3 – to avoid irreversible delays in learning. Research shows that the first five years of life are essential for language learning. The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) supports families in their journey to provide their child with the tools needed for full language acquisition and development. DDHH uses a

child and family-centered approach to language acquisition for infants and children in American Sign Language (ASL). Families can use ASL alone or in conjunction with spoken language development to ensure early language acquisition and development.

## How the Program Works

Families are matched with an ASL Deaf Language Associate to work with your family for up to 25 hours a week. ASL Deaf Language Associates are screened and work through the local Child Care Resource & Referral Center. Language instruction services are available in childcare centers, pre-school programs, summer camps, in home settings, or other settings as applicable.

## About ASL Deaf Language Associates:

- A Deaf adult with experience working with babies, toddlers, and children.
- Has strong communication skills and can interact and develop rapport with children, adults in the setting, and the parents of the child.
- Has advanced proficiency skills to provide a fluent American Sign Language (ASL) model for the child.
- Provides supplementary services to support the child's educational plan and development.
- Has knowledge of and participates in Deaf community events.
- Able to comply with curriculum guidelines.

## What is needed to be eligible for DDHH's Language Instruction Program:

- Proof of hearing loss such as a copy of the child's audiogram.
- Proof of the child's age as being between the ages of 0 - 5 years old.
- Proof of New Jersey residency.

## To find out more information:

Call the DDHH office at 609-588-2648 or email:

[DDHH.communications2@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDHH.communications2@dhs.nj.gov)

## DDHH also offers the following services for families:

**Information and Referral:** DDHH provides deaf and hard of hearing residents with resources for accessing services. The division also responds to a wide range of questions about accessibility and compliance with state and federal laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Case Management:** Fluent in ASL with an understanding of the unique needs of those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, DDHH case managers work as liaisons between consumers and service providers.

**ASL Resources:** DDHH has a compilation of online opportunities, college classes, and other ways that individuals can continue their journey in learning ASL. Visit here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/asl/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/asl/)

**Communication Access:** DDHH can help coordinate and find a qualified interpreter or real-time caption provider to assist deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans accessing services in many settings including healthcare, social services and education. Please refer providers to our website here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/)

**Hearing Aids:** If your child needs hearing aids, please see important information about Grace's Law that provides limited insurance coverage for hearing aids. Grace's Law can be accessed here: [nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/Graces-Law-booklet.pdf](http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/Graces-Law-booklet.pdf)