

Equipment Distribution Program: DDHH provides free assistance devices to eligible applicants, ensuring access to critical telecommunications and vital home safety alerting equipments. For more information: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training: DDHH provides trainings to professionals, healthcare providers, government agencies, and many other organizations. Trainings are also available to the public. The goal is to provide information on deaf and hard of hearing culture, common challenges, and strategies for effective communication. To request training: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst



NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



Contact DDHH

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

PO Box 074

Trenton, NJ 08625-0074

800-792-8339 toll free in New Jersey

609-588-2648

609-588-2528 FAX

Web: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh

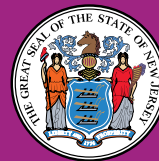
Email: ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov

References:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3164118/

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

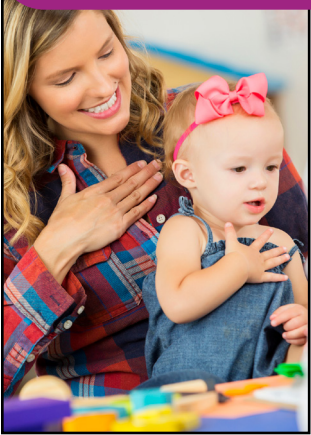
Phil Murphy, Governor

Tahesha L. Way, Lt. Governor

Department of Human Services

Sarah Adelman, 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:

- Child's birth certificate.
- Proof of hearing loss - child's audiogram, audiology report, or ABR report.
- 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

DDHH also offers the following services for families:

Information and Referral: DDHH links deaf and hard of hearing residents to vital resources. DDHH provides information in a language accessible manner empowering individuals to make informed decisions.

Advocacy and Management: DDHH's Deaf & Hard of Hearing Specialist Team assists residents in eliminating barriers that individuals face in accessing every day services and act as liaisons between consumers and service providers.

Hearing Aids: For children in need of hearing aids, Grace's Law provides limited insurance coverage. For more information: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/Graces-Law_booklet.pdf

Communication Access: DDHH can assist in coordinating interpreters and/or Communication Access Real-time Translation providers through consultations to assess the best and most effective services for a given situation. DDHH maintains a directory of qualified Sign Language interpreters & CART services: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption.

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