

Are you the parent
of a deaf child?

Are you feeling
confused, isolated and worried?

Would you like to talk
to another parent who has been in
similar circumstances
about your concerns/challenges?



The Deaf Society of NSW

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Tel: (02) 8833 3600

Email: info@deafsociety.com

Web: www.deafsocietynsw.org.au

The Deaf Society of New South Wales is the leading provider in NSW of specialist services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families — offering programs and support for nearly 100 years.

Services include:

- Family Support
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Community Workers
- Education and Training
- Sign Language courses
- Independent Living Skills Program
- Deafness Awareness Training
- Employment Assistance
- Dissemination of information
- Advocacy

For more information about services for Families contact Teresa Thomson on (02) 8833 3605 or email tthomson@deafsociety.com

www.deafsocietynsw.org.au/families

*Is your child
deaf or
hard of hearing?*



Parent to Parent Support



Parents
of Deaf
Children

We can help you

Parent to Parent Mentoring offers you the opportunity:

- for support and guidance
- to connect with other parents in similar situations with whom you can share experiences
- to exchange information and discuss issues you face as your child grows older
- for an outlet for your worries
- for comfort and a shoulder to help share your burden/problems
- to learn positive steps which will help

The Deaf Society of NSW, in conjunction with Parents of Deaf Children (PoDC), is offering a Parent to Parent (one to one) Mentoring Program where you can connect with another parent who will offer support in a non-threatening manner.

The Parent to Parent Mentoring Program will:

- match appropriate mentors with hearing parents of deaf children
- provide support through an appropriate medium — face to face, phone, SMS, email
- will encourage mentors to provide support weekly for the first month and then regular contact for the next 2 months.



What mentoring offers



Step by step...

1. Contact the Deaf Society of NSW and speak to the Program Supervisor - Deaf Friendly Families.
2. The Program Supervisor - Deaf Friendly Families will obtain a brief personal history.
3. The Deaf Society of NSW will then match you with an appropriate mentor.
4. The mentor will contact you and arrange a meeting if possible.
5. You will always have the right to withdraw from the program or change mentors if you wish.

Did you know?

Over 90% of babies born with a hearing loss are born to hearing parents who have no previous experience of deafness and no contact with people who have experience raising deaf children. The birth of a baby is a life-changing event by itself and parents and siblings need time to adjust to their new family member. Families of children with hearing loss often need to make decisions about technology, communication and education - many parents find that talking to another parent who has been through the same experience is a great help.



Without doubt, parenting is a difficult yet rewarding challenge. The situation is made more difficult for families affected by deafness. Parents who have a deaf child typically experience the range of grief emotions associated with having a disabled child which may impact negatively on the parenting process.

Families with deaf children often feel isolated with relatively few contacts with whom to compare and share their experiences and may lack information about how to deal effectively with their child.

Most parents say that the camaraderie, information and support they shared with other parents raising deaf children is one of the most valuable experiences they have.

