

## **PEDIATRIC HEARING RESOURCES**

### **SCHOOLS**

#### **Mama Lere Hearing School at Vanderbilt**

Mama Lere Hearing School at Vanderbilt works with children to improve their use and understanding of words and provides hearing healthcare services in one facility. Services include audiology, speech therapy, educational evaluations, and individualized educational plans.

[Mama Lere Hearing School | Vanderbilt Health Nashville, TN](#)

#### **Memphis Oral School**

Memphis Oral School for the Deaf provides a preschool program for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children ages 2 - 6 to build the language skills necessary to enter kindergarten. Family training therapy is offered through two programs, Sound Beginnings and Sound Transitions. These programs focus on creating good listening environments and building language skills for children who are DHH.

[Memphis Oral School for the Deaf \(mosdkids.org\)](http://mosdkids.org)

#### **Tennessee School for the Deaf**

Tennessee Schools for the Deaf work to ensure that students are verbally and culturally competent, exhibiting mastery of American Sign Language (ASL) and English, and have the self-knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in school and socially as productive members of society. Please use the links below for campuses across the state.

#### **Tennessee School for the Deaf Knoxville**

[TSD Campus Homepage - Tennessee Schools for the Deaf \(tsdeaf.org\)](http://tsdeaf.org)

#### **Tennessee School for the Deaf Nashville**

[TSDN Campus - Tennessee Schools for the Deaf \(tsdeaf.org\)](http://tsdeaf.org)

## **West Tennessee School for the Deaf**

[WTSD Campus Homepage - Tennessee Schools for the Deaf \(tsdeaf.org\)](https://tsdeaf.org)

### **FAMILY SUPPORT**

#### **0 - 5 Language and Literacy**

Tennessee Schools for the Deaf 0 - 5 Language and Literacy provides support, resources, and information to children ages birth to 5 who are DHH or deaf-blind and their families.

[Birth to 5 - Tennessee Schools for the Deaf \(tsdeaf.org\)](https://tsdeaf.org)

#### **Children's Special Services (CSS)**

CSS provides comprehensive medical care for children with physical disabilities from birth to 21 years of age. CSS is available in all 95 local county health departments. Financial and diagnostic eligibility criteria must be met before enrollment.

[Children's Special Services \(CSS\)](https://tsdeaf.org)

#### **Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT)**

CHANT is a patient-centered care coordination model that assists in connecting families to social and medical support resources. CHANT is available in all 95 local county health departments.

[CHANT](https://chant.tn.gov)

#### **Hands and Voices**

Tennessee Hands and Voices is a parent-driven non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting families of children who are DHH to ensure families can make the best decisions for their children and have access to information and support.

[Tennessee Hands & Voices | what works for your child is what makes the choice right \(tnhandsandvoices.org\)](https://tnhandsandvoices.org)

## **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

WIC is a federally funded program that provides supplemental food assistance and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5.

[Women Infants and Children \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/women-infants-children)

## **Tennessee Disability Coalition Family Voices PEARS**

Family Voices PEARS is a statewide family support organization that directly supports families and their children who are DHH by connecting them with a parent guide to provide support, information, and resources. Deaf guides are available to introduce families to the D/deaf culture and community.

[PEARS - Family Voices of Tennessee \(familyvoicestn.org\)](https://familyvoicestn.org)

## **Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS)**

TEIS is a voluntary program that offers therapy and other services to families of infants and young children up to age 3 with developmental delays or disabilities at no cost to families. Extended services are available up to age 5 for children who qualify.

[Tennessee Early Intervention System \(TEIS\)](https://www.tn.gov/early-intervention)

## **MEDICAL PROVIDERS**

The Infant and Pediatric Audiology Provider Directories provide information for audiology providers across the State who offer diagnostic testing and audiology services.

[2025 Infant Audiology Directory](#)

[2025 Pediatric Audiology Directory](#)

## **LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

### **Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing builds access and belonging in partnership with the D/deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing communities through advocacy, education, empowerment, and effective communication.

[Deaf or hard of hearing | Bridges for the Deaf or hard of hearing | Nashville](#)

### **Clerc Center at Gallaudet University**

Clerc Center aims to build a network of tools and resources that help children grow and transition successfully to school and beyond.

[Regional Early Acquisition of Language \(REAL\) | Clerc Center](#)

An online library of deaf education research, video lessons, and live events.

[Deaf Education Connections](#)

### **Cue College**

The Cue College provides self-study or instructor-led cued speech courses to DHH children and their families and the professionals who serve them, as well as resources and support.

[Cue College – Learn Cued Speech Online](#)

### **Gate Communications**

Gate Communications is a non-profit organization that serves the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Interpreting Communities.

[Gate Communications/Interpreting, Sign Language, Deaf Svc/Franklin, TN](#)

### **Hearing First**

Hearingfirst.org provides information and resources about Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) for families and children who have been diagnosed with hearing loss.

[Hearing First](#)

## **Language First**

Language First aims to educate and raise awareness about ASL/English bilingualism and the importance of a strong first language foundation for DHH children.

[Language First](#)

## **Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides access to educational materials about hearing loss to the hearing public and provides accessible informational and entertaining materials to those who are DHH.

[Library | Library Services for the Deaf or hard of hearing \(nashville.gov\)](#)

## **My Deaf Child**

MyDeafChild.org provides free ASL classes for parents of DHH children under 36 months of age.

[Resources — MyDeafChild.org](#)

## **Sign It ASL**

Sign It ASL offers an online, self-paced ASL curriculum of 50 lessons that teach conversational ASL and Deaf culture. Classes are offered for free to families of children with hearing loss who are 36 months or younger.

[Sign It! American Sign Language Made Easy | Learn ASL online from these entertaining ASL pros. Sign It ASL is a fun American Sign Language course for teens and adults.](#)

## **Sign Language 101**

Sign Language 101 provides free ASL videos as well as a complete, accredited online course to learn ASL.

[Learn Sign Language Easily | Free ASL Lessons & Courses](#)

## **Sign Language Studios**

Sign Language Studios provides sign language interpreter services, workshops, mentorships, consultative services, and other opportunities to improve the skills and knowledge of professionals in our field.

[Sign Language Studios, LLC](#)

## **Start ASL**

Start ASL provides a comprehensive curriculum to learn ASL.

[Free Sign Language | Start ASL](#)

## **HEARING AID ASSISTANCE**

Please visit the link below for information about the state insurance mandate in Tennessee regarding hearing aid coverage for children 18 years of age or younger.

[Hearing Aid Legislation for Children and State Insurance Department Websites by State | NCHAM](#)

For more information regarding Hearing Aid Loaner Bank programs available across the country, please visit the link below.

[Hearing Aid Loaner Bank Programs | NCHAM](#)

## **Friends of Tennessee Babies with Special Needs**

Friends of Tennessee Babies with Special Needs Hearing Aid Loaner Program offers a loaner hearing aid bank for a wide variety of digital hearing aids. Families can access assistive technology, resources, education, and support.

[About – Friends of Tennessee's Babies with Special Needs \(helpingbabies.org\)](#)

## **Waiting to Hear**

Waiting to Hear operates a mobile hearing clinic and a hearing aid bank to loan hearing aids to children ages birth to 18 years who are waiting for cochlear implant surgery or insurance approval for their own hearing aids. Camp H.E.A.R. is a

weekend retreat for children with hearing loss and their families who desire a hearing and spoken language outcome.

[Hearing Aid Bank | Waiting to Hear](#)

## **STATE RESOURCES**

Please visit the Tennessee Department of Health Newborn Hearing Screening website for information regarding newborn hearing screenings, audiology provider information, and resources.

[Hearing Screening](#)

### **Colonial Hearing, Speech, and Vision Center**

Colonial Hearing, Speech, and Vision Center offers free hearing evaluations and vision screenings to all Memphis Shelby County School students ages 3 - 22. Diagnostic testing, audiological and speech-language therapy, and interpreting services are also available.

[Memphis Shelby County Schools](#)

### **Disability Rights Tennessee**

Disability Rights Tennessee is Tennessee's Protection and Advocacy Network and serves to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities at no cost to the individual.

[Home - Disability Rights](#)

### **EARS of Middle TN**

The EARS program provides emergency preparedness training, appropriate early warning equipment, and coordination of emergency services for DHH and deaf-blind people.

[About | EARS of Middle TN](#)

## **Marty's Center**

Marty's Center offers a specialized program for children in Chattanooga with hearing loss to teach them to communicate using spoken and/or visual language in both an individualized environment and in a classroom setting.

[Marty's Center Inc | Ability Central](#)

## **Signal Centers**

Signal Centers serve children and adults with disabilities in the Chattanooga area. Services include access to assistive technology services, a Children's Services program that ensures children have the academic and social skills necessary for kindergarten, mentoring, resource connections, and community building.

[Signal Centers - Chattanooga, TN](#)

## **Talk with Me Tennessee**

Talk with Me Tennessee is a non-profit organization run by a group of pediatric speech and language pathologists that provides light-mid tech augmentative and alternative communication devices for families to provide access to communication.

[Talk With Me Tennessee \(talkwithmetn.com\)](http://talkwithmetn.com)

## **Tennessee Council for the Deaf Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing (TCDDDBHH)**

TCDDDBHH ensures that state and local public programs are accessible to those with varying degrees of hearing loss.

[Resources for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing](#)

## **Tennessee DeafBlind Project**

The Tennessee DeafBlind Project works with families, educators, and professionals to improve the outcomes of children ages birth to 21 who have combined hearing and vision loss.

[Tennessee Deaf-Blind Project | Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Nashville, TN \(childrenshospitalvanderbilt.org\)](http://childrenshospitalvanderbilt.org)



## **Tennessee Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (TNSTEP)**

TNSTEP serves families of children and youth with special health care needs and provides the tools necessary to educate and empower families to effectively collaborate as part of a team to support their child.

[TNSTEP • Special Education Support for Tennessee Families](#)

## **Tennessee Technology Access Program (TTAP)**

TTAP is a statewide program that offers four core programs: Funding Assistance, Device Demonstration, Device Loan, and Device Reutilization to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services.

[Tennessee Technology Access Program \(tn.gov\)](#)

## **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides information, resources, and support to families and professionals who are involved with children with hearing loss.

[Alexander Graham Bell Association – A life without limits for children with hearing loss](#)

### **American Society for Deaf Children**

American Society for Deaf Children supports families with DHH children by embracing full access to language-rich environments through mentoring programs, advocacy, resources, and collaboration.

[Home - American Society for Deaf Children](#)

## **American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)**

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for audiologists, speech language pathologists, support personnel, speech, language, and hearing scientists, and students.

[Speech, Language, Swallowing, and Hearing Information and Resources](#)

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

CDC provides information, data, and resources for children with hearing loss and their families.

[Screening for Hearing Loss | Hearing Loss in Children | CDC](#)

## **Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH)**

JCIH works to address issues that are important to the early identification, intervention, and follow-up of infants and young children who are diagnosed with hearing loss.

[JCIH](#)

## **My Baby's Hearing**

Babyhearing.org provides information about universal newborn hearing screening, hearing loss, hearing devices, language and learning, and resources and support for parents and professionals.

[My Baby's Hearing](#)

## **National Association of the Deaf**

National Association of the Deaf is a national civil rights organization that represents DHH individuals in the United States.

[NAD - National Association of the Deaf](#)

## **National Beacon Center**

The Beacon Center provides support to Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs to ensure that families have access to accurate, comprehensive,

and evidence-based information to assist them in making the best decisions for their DHH children.

[National Beacon Center](#)

### **National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)**

NCHAM provides support to EHDI programs through technical assistance, education, access to information about evidence-based practices, and partnership opportunities. NCHAM offers a multitude of hearing loss information and resources for both families and professionals.

[Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Resources | NCHAM \(infanthearing.org\)](#)

### **National Center on DeafBlindness (NCDB)**

As a national technical assistance center, NCDB works with state deafblind projects and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are deafblind and their families.

[Improving services, results, and quality of life for children and youth who are deafblind](#)

### **Zero to Three**

Zero to Three uses early childhood development research to create meaningful resources for families, professionals, and policymakers who shape the lives of young children.

[Zero To Three | Leading the Way in Early Childhood Development](#)

## **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATED CAMPS**

### **The Deaf Camp**

Deaf Camp is the premier camp for DHH children in Middle Tennessee, offering three different day camps for kids and teens from age 2 up to high school seniors.

[The Deaf Camp | Brentwood, TN](#)

## **Camp Dove - Christ Presbyterian Church**

The mission of Camp Dove is to provide DHH youth and their siblings, ages 8 – 14, with life-changing experiences and fun adventures in a Christian-focused camp and/or retreat setting utilizing ASL.

[Camp Dove - Christ Presbyterian Church](#)

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Consult with a pediatric audiologist for information about hearing aids, remote mic systems, cochlear implants, bone-anchored devices, and assistive devices. Below is a list of national links.

### **Assistive Devices**

#### **Diglo**

Customer Service: 1-800-825-6758

[Diglo | Hearing Loss & Deaf Products | Harris Communications](#)

#### **Sorenson CaptionCall**

Customer Service: 1-877-557-2227

[Caption Phone Services | Hard-of-Hearing Captioning Assistance](#)

#### **Star Center**

Customer Service: 1-731-668-3888

[Assistive Technology - STAR Center \(star-center.org\)](#)

### **Cochlear Implants and Bone-Anchored Devices**

#### **Advanced Bionics**

Customer Service: 1-866-844-4327

[About Cochlear Implants For Children | Advanced Bionics | Advanced Bionics](#)

## **Cochlear Americas**

Customer Service: 1-800-483-3123

[Cochlear Americas | Hear Now and Always | Cochlear Implants](#)

## **MED-EL**

Customer Service: 1-888-633-3524

[MED-EL | Cochlear Implants for Hearing Loss](#)

## **Oticon Medical**

Customer Service: 1-888-277-8014

[Ponto bone anchored hearing system | Cochlear Implants | Oticon Medical](#)

## **Hearing Aids and Remote Mic Systems**

### **Oticon**

Customer Service: 1-855-400-9766

[Hearing aids, information on hearing loss and tinnitus | Oticon](#)

### **Phonak**

Customer Service: 1-800-679-4871

[Hearing Aids and Solutions | Phonak](#)

## Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
American Sign Language (ASL)	A sign language that is used for communication by and with deaf people
ASL/English bilingualism	The development and use of both ASL and English in deaf and hard of hearing individuals, particularly children, within education and home settings
Assistive Technology	Any device, equipment, or system that helps individuals with disabilities increase, maintain, or improve their functional capabilities
Audiologist	A healthcare professional who identifies, assesses, and manages disorders of hearing, balance, and other neural systems
Audiology	The study of hearing, balance, and related disorders
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices	Tools that help individuals with speech and language impairments communicate more effectively
Bone-Anchored Devices (BAHA or BAI)	A type of hearing device that transmits sound vibrations directly to the inner ear through the skull, bypassing the middle ear
Captioning Assistance	Written text displayed on a screen that shows what is being said in real time or recorded media.
Care Coordination	Organization of patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants concerned with a patient's care to achieve safer and more effective care
Cochlear Implant (CI)	An electronic medical device that can help to provide a sense of sound to a person who is deaf or has severe hearing loss

D/deaf Culture	The shared values, beliefs, and social norms, artistic expressions, and historical experiences of a community of individuals who are deaf and use sign language as their primary means of communication
DeafBlind	A combination of both vision and hearing loss
Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)	Individuals with any degree of hearing or type of hearing loss, from mild to profound
Diagnostic Testing	A detailed medical assessment used to identify the presence, type, or extent of a disease or condition in a patient or examine how a child is developing in specific areas, such as speech, language, or hearing.
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)	Federal program that tracks the screening and diagnosis of infants for hearing loss and refers them for appropriate services
Early Intervention	A system of services and supports designed to help infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities
Hearing Aid	A medical device that makes sounds louder and easier to understand, especially speech
Hearing Scientists	Professionals who investigate the science of hearing and balance, including the biological, physical, and psychological processes involved in sound perception
Individualized Educational Plans (IEP)	A legally binding document that outlines a customized educational program for students with disabilities

Interpreter	Facilitates communication between individuals who use ASL and those who primarily use spoken English
Listening and Spoken Language (LSL)	An approach that helps individuals with hearing loss develop speech and listening skills through the use of hearing technology like hearing aids and cochlear implants
Parent Guide	A parent or family member of a DHH child who provides resources and assistance to other families with DHH children, especially those who are newly diagnosed
Remote Mic Systems (FM System)	A wireless technology designed to help individuals with hearing loss understand speech more clearly, especially in noisy environments or at a distance
Speech Language Pathology	A field focused on the assessment and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders
Speech Language Therapist	A medical professional who diagnoses and treats communication and swallowing disorders
Visual Language	A system of communication that utilizes visual elements to convey meaning and information

For additional information about commonly used terms related to hearing loss, please visit:

[Glossary for A Parent's Guide to Hearing Loss | Parent Guides to Hearing Loss | CDC](#)



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