

Cork Deaf Association

The Cork Deaf Association works hard to promote the rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Cork city and county. We aim to see full and equal participation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in all aspects of society. Services include Deaf Awareness talks, Sign Language classes, adjustment to hearing loss programmes, assistive technology and social work supports.

Our Services

Information Centre

Education

Social Work Service

Hard of Hearing Support

Assistive Technology (Deaftech)

Employment Support

Accommodation Support

Support Groups and Activities

Outreach Programmes

Recommended Reading

www.deafhear.ie: *Understanding Childhood Hearing Loss: Information Booklet for Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with a Hearing Loss.* (download or request a hard-copy)

www.sound-advice.ie: supports inclusive education in Ireland

www.simplysigning.ie: ISL resources

www.irishdeaf.com: online shop for ISL resources

www.irishdeafsociety.ie: up-to-the-minute information from the Deaf community and online shop to purchase resources. *Guide for Parents of Deaf Children* available to download from their website

www.stcolumbasgns.wordpress.com: St Columbas Girls National School with Facility for Deaf Children, Douglas West, Cork. Tel/Fax: 021 4893947

www.bishopstown-cs.ie: Bishopstown Community School, Bishopstown, Cork. Tel: 021 4544311, Fax: 021 4544439

www.education.ie: information on grants available

www.sharingthejourney.ie: website created by parents of Deaf children for parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children.

www.jtc.org: The John Tracy Clinic is the leading diagnostic and education clinic for young children.



Cork Deaf Association
5 MacCurtain Street
Cork

Tel: 021 4505944

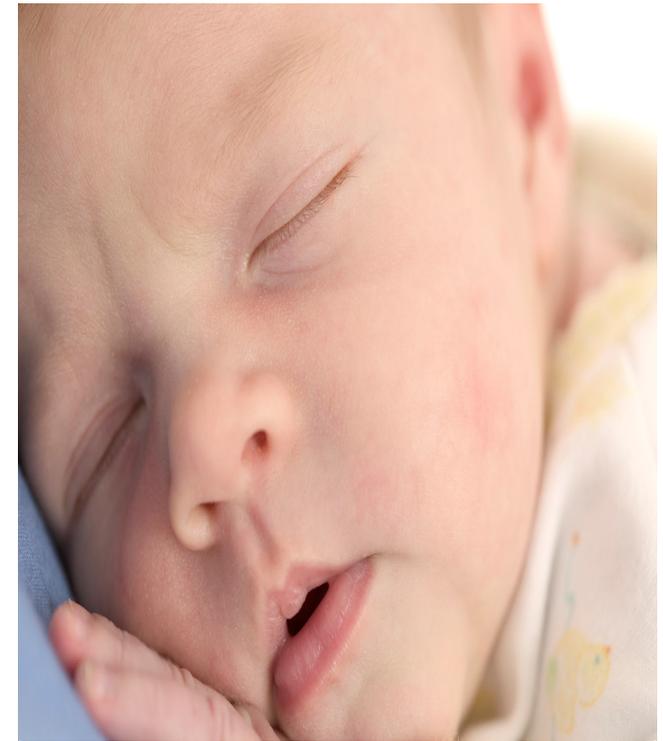
Fax: 021 4506190

Email: mail@corkdeaf.ie

www.corkdeaf.ie

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/cork-deaf-association/49624323403



Information for Parents of Newly Diagnosed Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Cork Deaf Association

First Steps



Finding out that your child has a hearing loss can be an overwhelming experience. You might feel lost and alone dealing with this very new situation and unsure of who or where to turn to next. This factsheet will help to answer some initial questions you may have so that you will feel more confident about making decisions about your child and his/her hearing loss.

The audiologist has told me that my child has a hearing loss. What is my next step?

There are a number of professionals who will help you and your child adjust to this new situation.

- Audiologist
- Social Worker
- Visiting Teacher
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Irish Sign Language Tutor

Audiologist

The audiologist will guide you through the hearing aid process. He/she will choose the most suitable and effective hearing aid for your child's hearing loss. Your child will need to visit the audiologist throughout their childhood as new moulds/aids will need to be fitted as your child's ears grow. The audiologist may also be able to recommend assistive listening devices which may be of help.

Social Worker

A social worker can be the person who helps families to communicate with other services/agencies. They can provide social, emotional and family support and can also act as advocates. The social worker will inform you of any entitlements you are eligible to apply for and assist you with any social welfare queries you may have. Contact the Cork Deaf Association, MacCurtain Street, Cork (Tel: 021 4505944) for further details.

Visiting Teacher

The visiting teacher service for children with hearing impairment is provided by the Department of Education and Science from the time of referral through to second level education. He/she will help with the emotional, social and educational development of your child and liaise with the audiologist if required. He/she will be able to provide information on assistive technologies that will make communication within the classroom easier. He/she will make regular visits to the family home and monitor the educational goals and communication development of your child. Applications for home tuition in ISL (Irish Sign Language) are made to the visiting teacher.

Speech and Language Therapist

Your child may be referred to a speech and language therapist who will help to develop communication skills. This can help to build confidence and increase your child's receptive and interaction skills and speech.

Irish Sign Language Tutor

Irish sign language grants are available for home tuition from the Special Needs section of the Department of Education. Children are entitled to this until they reach the age of eighteen.

How can I help my child to achieve his/her full potential?

Read to your child. This will help with the acquisition of language and communication skills. Use flashcards, facial expressions and body language to help visualise what you are saying. Be patient and remember that it can be tiring for a young child to process lots of new words and signs.

Learn Irish Sign Language. Adult evening classes take place in the Cork Deaf Association. Please contact them for registration details. Buy ISL resources i.e. flashcards, posters and books. These will all help your child to acquire new vocabulary.

Do a Deaf Awareness Course. Learn to see life from your child's perspective. CDA can provide you with valuable information which will help you to build a good relationship with your child.

Meet other families with Deaf children. Parents' evenings and coffee mornings are organised by the Cork Deaf Association from time-to-time so please contact the association for details of upcoming events. It can be very supportive to have contact with other people who can relate to you.

The Cork Deaf Association. Activities are organized throughout the year for young Deaf or Hard of Hearing children and children of Deaf parents. These usually take place at Christmas and Easter and a Smiley Summer Camp is organised for a week in the summer. The Cork Deaf Association also runs a Deaf Youth Club for older children.