

Parent Guides provide:

- direct parent/peer support and networking opportunities
- individualized information and resources
- a unique parent perspective on raising a child who is D/deaf or Hard of Hearing
- insights on navigating healthcare and educational systems from a parent perspective
- tips to help with appointments and evaluations



PEARS is primarily funded through a grant provided by the TN Department of Health Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

There is never any cost to families seeking support.

If you would like to learn more about PEARs, or to request a Parent Guide or a D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Guide, contact us at

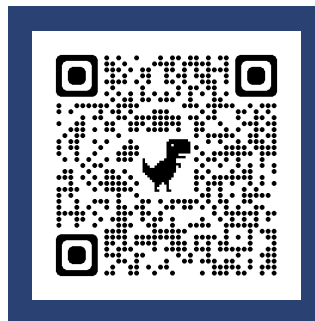
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Join our PEARs Parent Facebook Group.



FAMILY VOICES
of Tennessee



For Families with Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

PEARs

PARENTS • EMPOWERMENT • ACCESS • RESOURCES • SUPPORT



Providing individualized information, resources, and support from parents who have lived experience raising a child who is D/deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Parents meeting parents where they are.

Family Voices of TN's PEARs is a statewide program that directly supports families and their children who are D/deaf or Hard of Hearing by connecting them with an experienced Parent Guide. We also offer the opportunity to connect with a D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Guide.

What makes PEARS unique?

- Parent Guides are parents of children who are D/deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or Deaf-Plus.
- Parent Guides bring their lived experience, knowledge, and compassion to their roles while making the family's needs their primary focus.
- PEARS supports all methods and modes of communication.
- PEARS supports families with children ages 0-21 years old.
- PEARS provides the opportunity for families to connect with a D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Guide.



If your child is identified with hearing loss...

- Consider scheduling further audiology and/or ENT appointments.
- Consider entering your 0-3 year old child into Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS).
- Communicating with your baby is key! Verbal and nonverbal communication are powerful, so start early and have fun!
- Connect with a Parent Guide who can help you with all of the above.



Every year, 12,000 children in the United States are identified as experiencing hearing loss, making it the most common disability from birth.

(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)

What families have to say about PEARS:

"I am so thankful I met my Parent Guide. I now have hope that my child can accomplish things in life even with hearing loss."

"I finally met someone who could relate to everything I was experiencing with my child's hearing loss. It was comforting."

"This is a great resource. One of the scariest things for me when learning about my child's hearing loss was having no idea where to turn for information."



When hearing loss is discovered early and managed, your child can learn to communicate and thrive.

(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)