

Our parent mentors represent a wide range of experiences raising children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Every family has a unique and changing understanding as they travel their paths with their children. This knowledge helps them understand the possibilities and challenges that may present themselves to other families with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The parent mentors use spoken English, spoken Spanish, and several are fluent in American Sign Language. Parent mentors present at and attend national and state-level conferences on early identification, intervention and education for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and their families.

"The feeling of connection may be one of life's sweetest moments... When someone understands you, really understands you, because they have been there."

Parent Links works closely with a variety of local organizations and individuals so that all parents have the opportunity to expand their own networks of support. We connect families with each other, and promote opportunities for interactions with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people so that parents can develop a positive image of their children into the future.

To help support families, Parent Links often hosts Family Fun Days, family-friendly American Sign Language classes, educational training opportunities and more!

Finding Support Near You:

Parent Links Parent Mentors are currently available via the following Family Resource Centers throughout California:



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Family Focus Resource Center
California State University, Northridge
Michael D. Eisner College of Education
18111 Nordhoff Street, Room ED 109
Northridge, CA 91330-8265
(818) 677-6854 (English and Español)
www.csun.edu/deafproject



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Exceptional Parents Unlimited
4440 N. First Street
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 229-2000 x208
www.exceptionalparents.org



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Rowell Family Empowerment Center
962 Maraglia Street
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-5129
www.empoweryourfamily.org

Parent Links

Hope. Dream. Achieve!



We Understand.

Providing support, resources and empowerment activities to families with children, ages birth to three, who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Dear Parents,

You and your family are starting on what might be an unexpected, but exciting journey with your child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing!

We believe that families who are involved and knowledgeable are the key to creating a successful future for ALL children. Parent Links is here to help you!

Parent Links Mission:

To empower parents of infants and toddlers who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing by providing them with comprehensive information and awareness through mentoring, networking and resources, and by honoring the family's relationship with their child.

Parent Links Vision:

Through the parent-mentor relationship, we will support and inform families so that all children in California have the earliest possible access to language development and communication. Given the right start, these children will grow up to become productive, independent members of society.

We Understand:

When parents find out their precious child has been identified as Deaf or Hard of Hearing, they may experience many different emotions.

"I don't know what to do..."

"What if I don't make the right decisions?"

"Our child was the first deaf person we'd ever met."

"Why does everyone think they know what is best for our child?"

**With the Parent Links Team,
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



OUR GOAL:

To support and empower families raising children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

We aim to help families recognize and embrace the positive lifetime journey of bonding with and raising a Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing child.

Working in partnership with the Family Focus Resource Center, we:

Offer support for families via phone, email and face-to-face.

Provide a variety of resources including free beginning American Sign Language classes, playgroups for children ages 1 to 5, and organized Family Fun Day events.

Believe families should take advantage of all opportunities that encourage their children's language development.

Help bridge the gap between parents, teachers, administrators and resource providers who work with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Provide training on Individual Family Service Plans and empower parents to become advocates for their children's rights.

Support parents with children who have a variety of special needs in addition to being Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing
can include children with:**

Mild Hearing Levels

Moderate Hearing Levels

**Severe to Profound
Hearing Levels**

Unilateral Hearing

Atresia

Microtia

Auditory Neuropathy

**We Support All Families!
www.myparentlinks.com**



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