



# Understanding childhood deafness & how we support families

# Today's Communication Support



- 2 British Sign Language interpreters – let us know in the chat if you need to access them – we'll give you a multi-pin function
- Interpreters will change every 15 minutes or so. We'll pause briefly whilst we do that
- Closed Captions can be accessed today – instructions are in the chat on how to access them
- You can change your own screen view by clicking on the “view” button so you can see pinned or all participants

# Who am I?



## Anne McRae

- Parent
- Advice & Guidance Officer
- Parenting course facilitator

# Understanding deafness



The National Deaf Children's Society uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all types of hearing loss from mild to profound.

This includes deafness in one ear or temporary hearing loss such as glue ear.

# What we will be covering

Understanding  
childhood  
deafness

Deaf with .....

Deaf children  
and education

Specialist  
support

How to  
support deaf  
parents

What we do

# Understanding deafness



90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents

50% of children are born deaf and 50% will become deaf

8 out of 10 children will experience an episode of glue ear before they are 10

23 - 40% of deaf children  
have an additional health,  
learning, or social need.



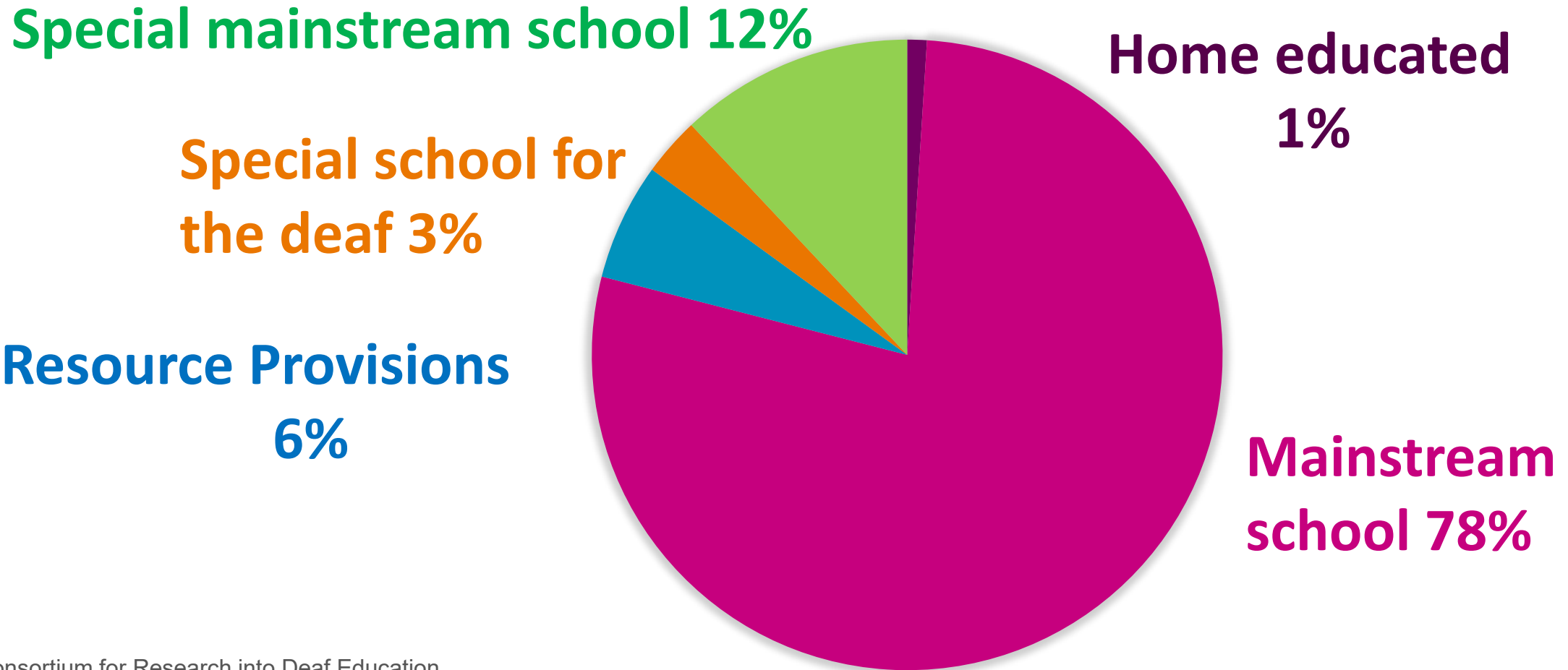
# Implications of deafness for learning

- language and communication
- auditory memory
- processing time
- incidental learning
- self-esteem





# CRIDE\*: Where are school-aged children educated (2019)



\*Consortium for Research into Deaf Education

# How do deaf children communicate at school?



- 9% of severely / profoundly deaf children use British sign language
- 14% have English or Welsh as an additional spoken language

## Teachers of the Deaf (QToD)



- Teachers with an additional post-graduate qualification in deafness.
- Work with families, education and health from 0-25.
- Access to teaching and learning
- Specialist assessments, interventions and advice



## Barriers for deaf children

- Low incidence, high cost
- Access to specialist services
- Lack of knowledge of deafness amongst mainstream professionals



**So what Support can we  
offer?**



# Connecting Families



**Why is that  
important?**



**What do families  
get out of it?**





**How is this  
changing?**

# What can families access?

- **Online information sessions**
- **Workshops & Training**
- **Peer support**
- **Helpline, including experts**
- **Local groups**
- **Website & resources**
- **Social Media**



**Online Information Sessions**

#### Online Baby and Toddler Sessions



Photo: the and baby

#### Relaxed, online sessions for you and your deaf baby or toddler to enjoy together

Our "drop in on Zoom" sessions are for deaf children to enjoy together with their families. By family we mean parents, carers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins...the list goes on!

Join us to:

- meet other families caring for young children
- take part in fun activities
- discover valuable information
- meet our family and deaf presenters and find out about their experiences of parenting.

- Meeting families all across the UK
- Access to experts and advice
- A chance to chat and ask questions
- Share experiences

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Photo: Dad and baby.

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*“I don't think you know how much having these online sessions has helped me and I dare say many more too... I'm so new to it all and so, so frightened by it all but with every session I attend and with every comment I hear I feel that little bit more settled” – Parent of a young baby*

#### Online Baby and Toddler Sessions

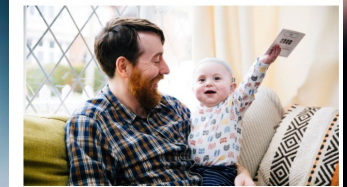


Photo: Deaf and baby

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# Website & Resources

## Information and support



We're here for you whenever you need us – if you've just found out your child has a hearing loss, you need support with making decisions as your child grows up or you work with deaf children. [Join us today](#) to access all our information, services and support.



### First diagnosis →

If you've just found out your baby or toddler has a hearing loss, or if your child has become deaf, then we've got expert information and guidance just for you



### Childhood deafness →

Find out about how the ear works, what deafness is, spotting the signs of deafness, the different types and levels of deafness, hearing tests, hearing aids and implants

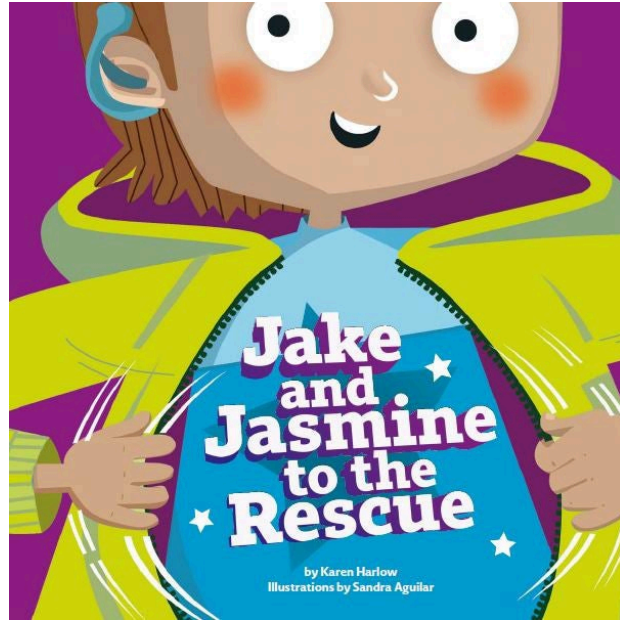


### Language and communication →

Deaf children can develop language and communicate as effectively as any other children with the right support – find out about all the options

- Information on just about everything!
- Your Community
- Access to events
- Helpline information
- Resources to read, download and order





# Family Courses

## Raising a Deaf Child: Family programme



Photo: We have developed short online presentations to help parents navigate some of the common challenges that come with raising a deaf child.

Raising a deaf child can be challenging. For several years now the National Deaf Children's Society has offered courses to parents, providing them with practical strategies they can use day-to-day whilst parenting a deaf child. There are 20 different modules available, covering a wide range of issues many parents will face. (If you would like further information on the modules available or how to access them, please contact our [helpline](#)).



### Family Sign Language courses on Zoom

We are now teaching families across the UK on Zoom! Our Zoom courses are available for families of up to six people. This means that extended family members such as grandparents can join remotely.

Course dates are flexible and will be arranged depending on families' and tutors' availability.

To take part, families need access to a device with a stable internet connection, such as a computer or tablet.

#### Apply now!

We are now welcoming applications for round three of our Family Sign Language Zoom courses. Places are limited. We will prioritise those families:

- with a deaf child aged between 0 and 7 years old
- who experience communication difficulties in the home
- who have no previous experience of learning sign language.

To apply you'll need to be a member. Membership is free and it means you'll have access to lots of great benefits. [Find out more about membership.](#)

[Apply now](#)





# Bright start



### **Bounce Along to Baby Sign: People who help us**

- 28 January
- 10.30am to 11.30am
- recommended for families with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

When your children have medical appointments, knowing some signs, to explain more about the people they'll meet and what might happen at the appointment, can help calm their feelings of anxiety and increase their understanding. In this session's story, Dr Maisy tells us all about the people who help us.

Come along and learn hearing-related signs such as 'audiologist', 'cochlear implant', 'hearing aid' and many more!

[Register now](#)



## Upcoming sessions

### Together We Can Be Ready For Deaf Children

- 3 March 2022
- 6pm to 7pm
- on Zoom

In this session, we'll help you view the world through a deaf child's eyes and understand how to help them overcome the barriers they might face.

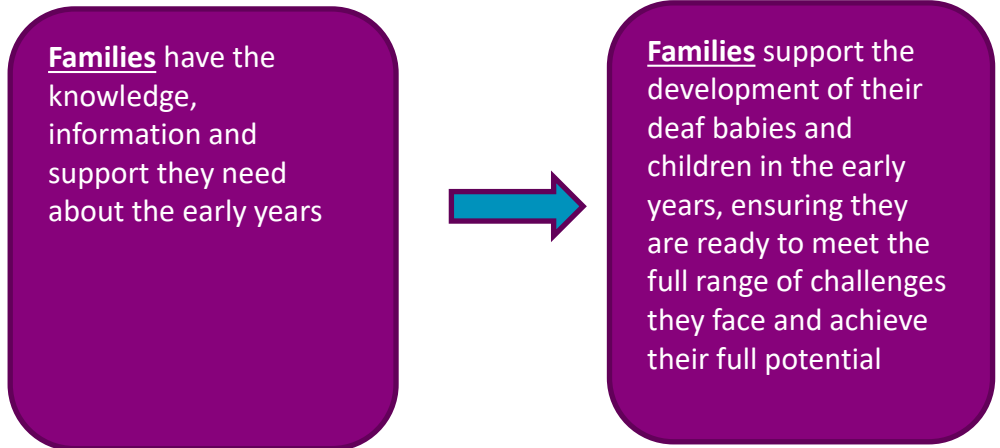
We'll look at the attainment gap and tackle any misconceptions, as well as learning about what we as practitioners need to put in place to best support every deaf child.

This session will help you:

- understand the impact deafness has on learning and development
- challenge the misconceptions surrounding deafness
- be able to identify and understand the impact that being deaf may have on behaviour, and give the right support
- identify and plan strategies to overcome barriers that deaf children might face in your setting and play/learning environment.

[Register now](#)

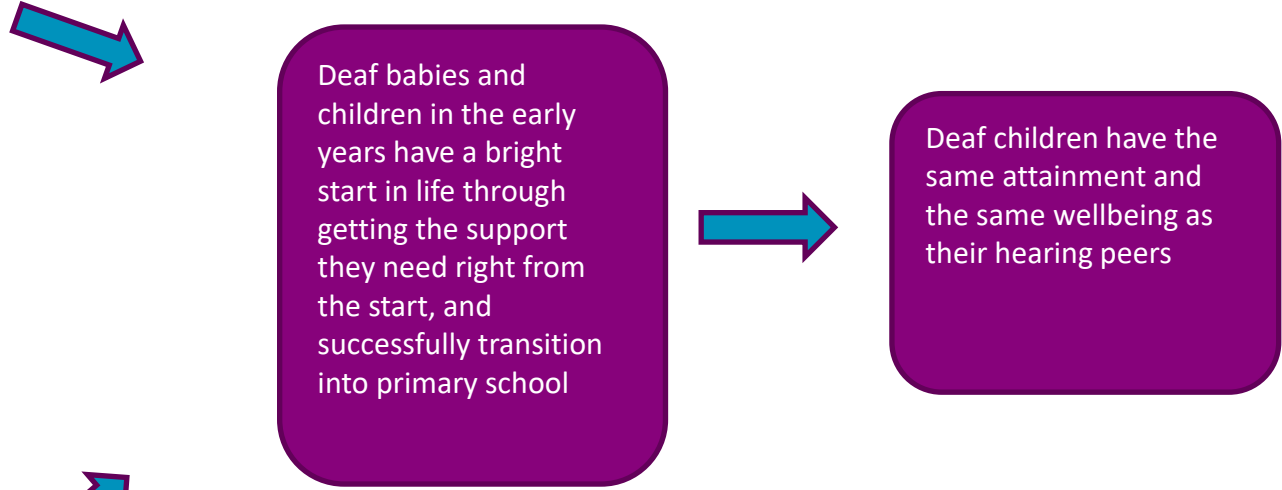
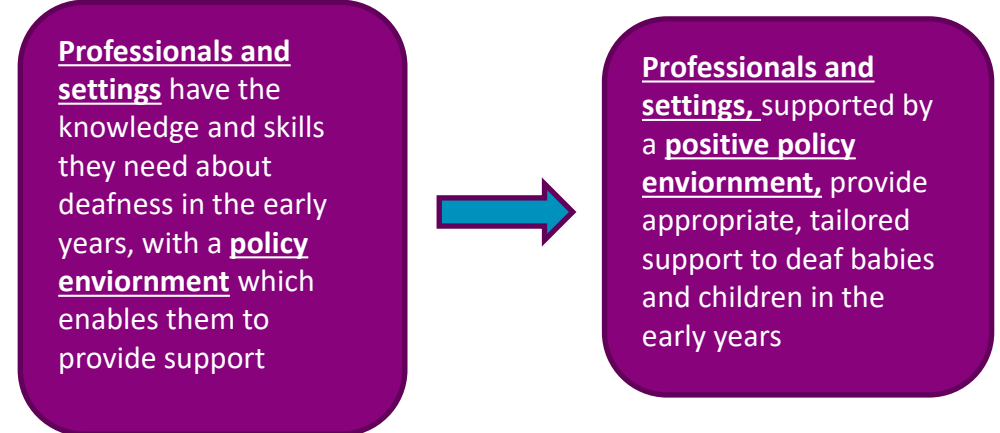
# Early years strategy - links to the Theory of Change and reporting framework



"My parents are happy and not worrying about me-they need confidence and support too because our wellbeing as a family makes me feel safe."

"My family know how to support my learning at home, that they can feed my curiosity with new experiences, books, songs and rhymes."

"You have high aspirations for me! I want to learn and for my learning to build and grow."



"Everyone works together with me and for my good. If all the grown ups in my life see possibilities instead of problems, I can be ready for my next step in my journey. Nothing for me without me."

"You have high aspirations for me! I want to learn and for my learning to build and grow."

"I can be independent, have a go, bounce back after difficulty and know it's ok to try again."

"I can communicate my needs and socialise with my friends and family-I want to have fun and to be included!"

"I know who I am, that I feel a sense of belonging and that I connect with my deaf identity."

"I can express myself freely and for my feelings to be understood as well as understanding other people's feelings too."



# Priority Families

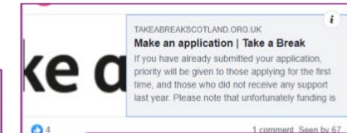
# Local Groups

- We share lots of information with Local Groups – so they could support local families
- Help groups to learn from each other and us – to deliver support and activities

## Supporting Families



SIGNHEALTH.ORG.UK  
**Mental Health Awareness Week 2020 - SignHealth**  
Mental Health Awareness Week, 18-24 May 2020, is an important...

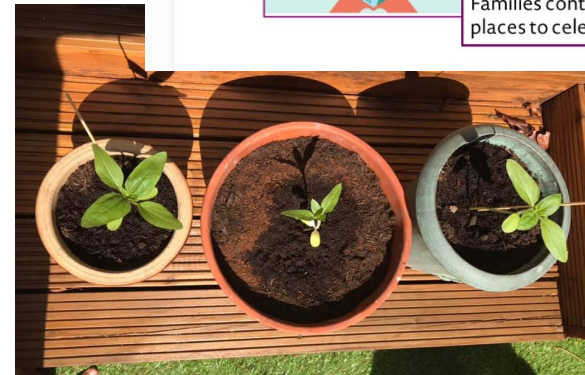


Opportunity for Scottish families, shared by Highland DCS.

For Mental Health Awareness week **Bedfordshire DCS** shared accessible information for the Deaf community.



Families continue to use their group pages as sources for advice and places to celebrate.



Brighton, Hove & West Sussex Deaf Children's Society  
5 June · 🌟



Another zoom catch up at 10am today message for the link see you soon



SDCS Quiz Night July 11 @ 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm



## Blog

When changing the value in the drop-down below it will automatically update the search results

Select Category

Early years



### [Enjoying nature and the outdoors with your deaf child](#)

[Leianne, our Head of Early Years, gives her top tips on enjoying the outdoors with your deaf child and how to...](#)



### [Supporting your deaf child at bedtime](#)

Mark, from our Early Years team, gives his top tips for helping your deaf child fall asleep.



### [Bath time with your deaf baby or young child](#)

Read our top tips for making bath time a positive experience with your deaf baby or young child.



### [How to support your deaf child playing with their hearing siblings](#)

Advice on creating a positive play environment for deaf children and their hearing siblings.



### [Creating daily routines for your deaf child](#)

Read our top tips for parents on creating daily routines for your deaf child.

# Our Blogs For Families

# Parent Involvement



# Parent training

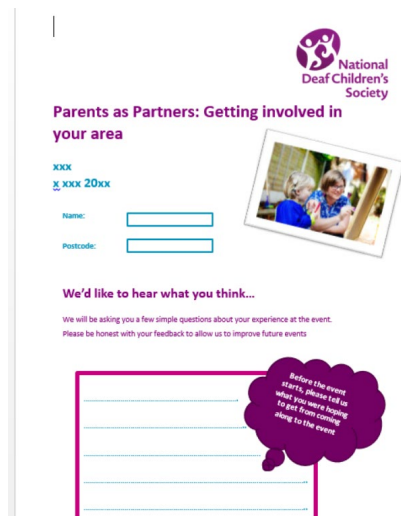


# Parents making a difference!

## • Training

I liked working as a team, supporting each other and listening

I feel more confident and understand more about the role I can play



Parents as Partners: Getting involved in your area

xxxx  
xx xxx 20xx

Name:

Postcode:

We'd like to hear what you think...

We will be asking you a few simple questions about your experience at the event. Please be honest with your feedback to allow us to improve future events.

Before the event starts, please let us know you were hoping to get from coming along to the event

## • Being involved

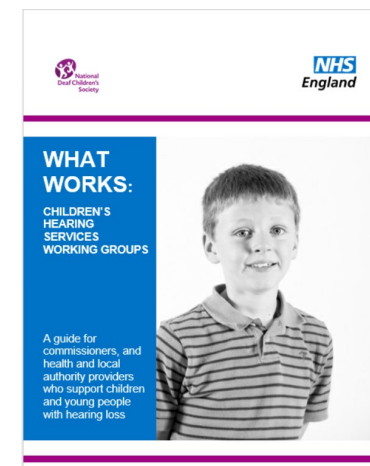
We are treated like we have a valued opinion and I enjoy going along to keep up to date with developments

### Barriers to working with professionals

- Working together lets think about the barriers we have or may face when working with professionals and other stakeholders?
- One by one lets come up with strategies to help overcome those barriers
- How can we implement those strategies in local service development?



“ I feedback about local services through CHSWGS and feel that changes have happened as a direct result of my work with the group.”





**What do parents tell us?**

*“My local Parent Carer Forum has strong links with the local authority and is very effective in helping to shape local services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). When statements were being replaced with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), members of our Forum were invited to be on the interview panel to recruit EHCP coordinators. This was so helpful.” – Parent of a deaf young person*

*“I’ve really benefitted from being a member of my local Parent Carer Forum. They provide a range of activities and supportive resources for parents.” – Parent of a deaf child*

*“My local Parent Carer Forum has good links with the local CHSWG. I think this has helped to address issues that impact on deaf children.” – Parent of a deaf child*

*“Being a member of my local Parent Carer Forum has been invaluable. Without being involved, I worry that decisions about services for deaf children would have been made without the involvement of those with expertise in deafness. I have told other parents of deaf children about the Forum, and we make sure there is always a parent of a deaf child attending the meetings.” – Parent of two deaf children*



# Welcoming a deaf parent to your forum



- Find out how the deaf member prefers to communicate
- Make meetings 'deaf friendly'
- Make information accessible

# Campaigning

The needs and wishes of deaf children, young people and their families are at the heart of our campaigning. Let us know what matters to you at the moment email - [campaigns@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@ndcs.org.uk) or use our [sign relay service](#). BSL interpreter service available 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

If you aren't already a member of our [campaigns network](#), please join over 10,000 other campaigners who are standing up for deaf children and young people.

Together, we will overcome the barriers that hold deaf children and young people back.



#### Covid

We're here for deaf children and their families

#### Campaigns Network

Join a network of over 10,000 passionate campaigners.

#### Campaign toolkit

Everything you need to campaign for deaf children and young people



#### England

We campaign for deaf children and young people in England



#### Our campaigns blog

Check out our campaigns blog - the place to find updates on all our activities



#### Scotland

We're campaigning in Scotland on local issues

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# After this session

Have a look at our  
deaf awareness  
e-learning module

[www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/training-courses/e-learning/introduction-to-deaf-awareness/](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/training-courses/e-learning/introduction-to-deaf-awareness/)

## Introduction to Deaf Awareness



Photo: Get a better understanding of deafness and gain awareness of some of the challenges deaf children face.

### Module overview

This module is the perfect place to start learning about deaf awareness, and only takes about 15 minutes to complete!

During this course, you will cover topics including:

- Lip-reading
- Language: BSL vs. SSE
- Basic fingerspelling
- Basic BSL greetings

# After this session

Join our Campaigns Network to get the latest news about services for deaf children in your area

[campaigns.ndcs.org.uk/join/network](https://campaigns.ndcs.org.uk/join/network)



## Join the campaigns network

Take a stand for deaf children today by joining a network of over 10,000 passionate campaigners.



**The Campaigns Network is here for everyone who wants to remove the barriers that hold deaf children, young people and their families back, so that no deaf child is left behind.**

Be the first to find out about opportunities to improve and protect services in your local area, and join in national campaigns.

Fill in your contact details in this section to join the network today and become a champion of deaf children and young people across the UK.

10,098  
Help us get to 11,000

Join the campaigns network by adding your details today

Add your name:

First Name \*  Last Name \*

Start typing address or postcode \*

Email address \*

Please tick this box to confirm you are over 18

How did you hear about us?

Click 'join us now' to be added to the campaigns network and receive vital campaign updates in your inbox.

By completing this form you are confirming you are happy for us to contact you via email about campaigning activities, fundraising and other ways to get involved. The National Deaf Children's Society will process your data so that we can keep in touch with you about these topics. The information that you provide will be held in accordance with our [privacy policy](#). If you want to stop receiving these emails in the future, please let us know.



**So there is a lot of support for families with deaf children.....**



**Right from the  
start**

**Any  
Questions???**

**Supporting families**

**So many resources  
and a lot of support**