

BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital
and the Provincial Health Services Authority

Hands & Voices *Guide By Your Side* Program:

Opening for Parent Guide

The *Guide By Your Side* program provides parent support linking parents of children newly identified deaf/hard of hearing or deafblind through newborn hearing screening with trained and experienced "Parent Guides" and "Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides".



What is the role of the Parent Guide?

Guide By Your Side Parent Guides offer parents the opportunity to establish a supportive relationship with another parent, sharing stories about their own experiences raising a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, as well as some of the practical advice a parent learns over the years (e.g. how did we keep those hearing aids on our baby's ears and out of his mouth??!!).

Parent Guides are trained to support families *without bias* towards modes or methods of communication. We believe in the Hands & Voices slogan, "*What Works for your Child is what makes the Choice right.*"

How to Apply - Please submit a letter outlining your interest, qualifications and experience to kshauer@cw.bc.ca. See "Request for Interest" below for further details regarding this part-time position of Parent Guide. Application letters must be received no later than **August 25th, 2017**.

More information about Guide By Your Side, BC Early Hearing Program, and Hands & Voices:

www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-early-hearing-program/early-language-support/guide-by-your-side

www.bchandsandvoices.com

www.handsandvoices.org

Request for Interest: *Parent Guide Position*

Hands & Voices *Guide By Your Side* Program (GBYS) BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP)

The Parent Guide will contact families to provide non-biased information and support around resources available for children newly identified deaf/hard of hearing.

Working on an as-needed basis with families, and under the guidance of the GBYS Coordinator, the responsibilities of the guides will include:

- The provision of timely parent-to-parent support at the time of identification. This will include making initial contact with families, collaborating with BCEHP / GBYS Parent & Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide team members to determine information and resources required, and follow-up to ensure that families' needs are met.
- Participation in the creation and review of materials used by the BC Early Hearing Program.
- Maintenance of regular statistics and data logging of activities as necessary to the BCEHP.
- Attending monthly meetings for the purpose of collaboration and planning for the GBYS Program.
- Participation in initial training / educational activities as required (approx. 3 – 4 days) as well as ongoing 2-day GBYS team training provided twice per year (Friday/Saturday combination).

Qualifications & Requirements

- First hand, current knowledge and understanding of the impact of reduced hearing levels on the family and the child (must be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing). Knowledge of BC resources, communication, language and technology opportunities prevalent in the field of deafness. Contractors must be willing to maintain membership in BC Hands and Voices.
- Must have access to personal computer or laptop, internet and telephone or cell phone (voice and/or text).

Additional Details

Maximum of 4-6 hours per week depending on need (not guaranteed).
Contractor hourly rate to be discussed.

Interested contractors should submit a letter outlining their interest, qualifications and experience to:

Kim Shauer, Coordinator
Hands & Voices *Guide By Your Side* Program
BC Early Hearing Program
kshauer@cw.bc.ca

Deadline for submission is Friday, August 25th, 2017.
Please forward this to parents that you believe would make effective Parent Guides.
(Parents can be hearing, Deaf or Hard of Hearing but must be a parent of a child who is deaf/hard of hearing).