

BC Early Hearing Program

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



Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program:

Part-Time Position for Parent Guides

We currently have openings for parents of deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) children identified through newborn hearing screening in BC to join our team. At this time, applicants with the following perspectives or backgrounds will be prioritized: parents of DHH children with Indigenous ancestry, parents of DHH children with South Asian culture and language, parent of a DHH child with ANSD (Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum disorder) and parent of DHH child with additional medical needs.

The Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side program is a provincial service providing parent support by linking parents of babies newly identified deaf/hard of hearing in BC with trained "Parent Guides" & "Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides". The program is operated through BC Early Hearing Program.

Guides are trained to support families *without bias*. We believe in the Hands & Voices motto, "*What Works for your Child is what makes the Choice right.*"

What is the role of the Parent Guide?

Parent Guides offer parents the opportunity to establish a supportive relationship with another parent, sharing stories about their experiences raising a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, 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?!).

A BC Early Hearing Program coordinator connects parents with Guides. Guides primarily contact parents by phone and email. There are also opportunities to meet parents at events (online and in-person).

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. Please self-identify as Indigenous/First Nations if applicable. Application letters must be received no later than **September 15th, 2023**.

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

<http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-early-hearing-program>

<https://www.bchandsandvoices.com/guide-by-your-side/> (includes ASL VLOG)

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Request for Interest: Parent Guide Position

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

Duties & Responsibilities I

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.
- 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).
- Participation in the creation and review of materials used by the BC Early Hearing Program.

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)
- The Indigenous Parent Guide self identifies as First Nations or Indigenous with ties to Indigenous ancestors.
- 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 (voice and/or text).

Additional Details

Maximum 4-6 hours per week depending on need (not guaranteed); two full training days provided twice/year. Occasional travel required for trainings (held in Vancouver area), outreach and events.

This is a paid contract position. Hourly rate to be discussed. Interpreters and captioning provided for interview process, required trainings, monthly meetings and videoconferencing as required.

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 September 15th, 2023.

Please forward this to parents that you believe would make effective Guides. Parents may be hearing, Deaf or hard of hearing as long as they are a parent of a child who is deaf/hard of hearing.

