



Outreach Program

Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Birth to 6: Summary of WESP-DHH Outreach Services

WESP-DHH Mission: The WESP-DHH Outreach program supports children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind by providing a broad array of services to families and educational programs. Services are based on the needs of each individual child.

Outreach Team Members:

Birth to Six Services Coordinator
Diagnostic/Educational Specialist
Educational Audiology Consultant
Speech-Language /Auditory-Oral Consultant
Deafblind Coordinator
Sign Communication Specialist

School Psychologist Consultant
Parent Liaison
Transition Coordinator
Deaf Mentor Project Coordinator
Technical Services Coordinator

Outreach Consultation: For Birth to 3 Programs and School Districts

Student Assessment, written evaluations and recommendations, IFSP and IEP participation, program consultation, family consultations, professional in-services, workshops and conferences, parent workshops and trainings.

Duration of Services: Varies depending upon program and family requests. Usually consultative services are 1-3 visits. Consultants do not provide on-going direct service.

Cost: No cost

Guide By Your Side Program (GBYS)

In collaboration with Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices, a parent-to-parent match between parents who have experience raising a child who is deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind or deaf with additional disabilities with parents of children who are newly identified with a hearing loss. Guides can answer questions, share experiences, provide resources and support regarding parenting a child with hearing loss, including communication and educational options, and, can provide support during the child's transition out of the Birth to 3 Program. Guides will collaborate with Birth to 3 programs and school districts, and, connect families to local support and parent groups.

Duration of Services: 6 hours of contact. An additional 2 hours during transition out of the Birth to 3 Program.

Cost: No cost

Home Early Listening Program (HELP)

This program (in the planning phase) will provide in-home education and training for families to support their child's optimal auditory development.

Deaf Mentor Program (DMP): (Birth to 6 years)

Deaf Mentors support visual communication development and/or sign language skills development within families, Birth to 3 Programs and local schools. Deaf Mentors provide information regarding the Deaf community and Deaf Culture. Family outings/Family Fun days are also offered.



Duration of Services: Services are listed on the IFSP and can be listed on an IEP. A Deaf Mentor is part of the IFSP team. Services are direct and on-going. Home visits are weekly for 1 – 1 ½ hours.

Cost: Counties have a co-payment for Deaf Mentor Services. Families may or may not incur a County Cost share. There is no cost to school districts for this service.

WESP-DHH Lending Library

The Lending Library is a free-loan collection of books, DVD's, videos, and assessment materials for use by families and professionals, with a focus on issues related to hearing loss. Materials can be requested through your local public via an inter-library loan or can be requested directly from the Lending Library.

Shipping Cost: There is no cost if acquired through your public library. There is a return shipping cost if requested directly from the lending library.

Wisconsin Infant and Children's Statewide Hearing Aid Exchange Service (WISHES)

WISHES provides temporary assistance to families by providing hearing instruments for up to a 6 month loan period to newly identified deaf and hard of hearing children (up to 18 years) who are not Medicaid eligible, do not have other hearing aid insurance coverage, or, may be a candidate for a cochlear implant. Audiologists need to initiate referrals to this program.

Cost: There is no cost for hearing instruments. Families may be responsible for other charges, such as ear molds, as determined by the audiologist.

Annual Statewide Conferences

Statewide Family Conference: The Statewide Family Conference occurs the second weekend in March of every year. Content and themes of the conference are decided by parents, who participate in the planning of this event. This exciting conference includes a keynote presentation and informative breakout sessions that address the needs of families of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and deaf with additional disabilities. Wonderful opportunities for families to network with one another, for children to interact with deaf and hard of hearing adults through our childcare activities, and to socialize and build friendships with other children who are deaf/hard hearing and deafblind are also provided. Locations of the conference vary from year to year. Scholarships are available to support attendance for ALL families.

The 8th Annual Statewide Family Conference will be held on March 12-14, 2010 in Madison, WI. Please contact Laurie Nelson at laurie.nelson@wesp-dhh.wi.gov or (608) 822-3756 for more information about this conference or scholarship opportunities.

Statewide Professional Conference: The Professional Conference coincides with the Family Conference and was created to strengthen and support team building between families and the professionals who work with their children. The content of the conference matches what is presented at the Family Conference. It is held two days before the Family Conference and attendees are invited to join the families for dinner on Friday night.

The 5th Annual Professional Conference will be held on March 11-12, 2010 in Madison, WI. Please contact Stefanie Kessen at stefanie.kessen@wesp-dhh.wi.gov or 715-848-0159 for more information regarding this conference.

For Additional Birth to Six Program & Referral Information, and, Training Opportunities Please Visit:

www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov

or

Call Marcy Dicker, WESP-DHH Program Director at 262-787-9540