



Louisiana Hands & Voices

*"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."*TM

Hands & Voices is a national parent-driven organization that supports families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We advocate for families, share information, and create space and time for people to come together and help one another. We know that families use many different ways to communicate with their children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It doesn't matter which mode of communication you use, we believe that what works for your child is what makes the choice right.

Our goal is to provide family-to-family support to help all children reach their potential. One of the main programs of Hands & Voices is *Guide By Your Side*.



What is Guide By Your Side?

Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a program for all Louisiana families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The program offers trained guides to meet with families, at no cost to families.



- **Parent Guides** are parents of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. They can tell you about their personal experiences raising their child. They can also answer questions about what to expect as your child grows.
- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides** are adults who are deaf or hard of hearing who are willing to share their experiences with you. Families will gain insights on how they use technology, make friends, and create their personal identity.

The program is flexible in order to meet the unique needs of each family. To learn more, contact Nicole DeLeon at (504) 388-5712 or email ContactUs@LAHandsAndVoices.org.

"The best thing we did for our family was get involved with the Guide By Your Side program. It made a huge difference in our knowledge and outlook regarding our daughter's future." – GBYS participant

Get Involved!

Email ContactUs@LAHandsAndVoices.org to join our mailing list! In addition to Guide By Your Side, we also provide:



Regional family support and social events to meet with other families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.



Alerts about educational and support workshops, trainings, conferences, and other events across the state.



The Communicator – a quarterly national newspaper that includes the latest news, research, and stories about families from across the country.

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