



Hearing Support Team Parent Information

The Hearing Support Team will enable progress, achievement and social inclusion for your child with hearing loss

Who are the Hearing Support Team?

- The Hearing Support Team is one of the Birmingham City Council SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Support Services, supporting children and young people with hearing loss.
- The Hearing Support Team is a team which consists of Qualified Teachers of the Deaf, specialist Teaching Assistants, an Educational Audiologist and Audiology Technicians.

Who do we support?

- Children and young people from 0 to 25 years with a diagnosis of hearing loss who have been prescribed hearing aids.

Where do we support?

- Family homes
- Early years settings
- Schools – mainstream and special
- Colleges

Do you work with other professionals to help my child?

- Yes – we work with other professionals including Speech and Language Therapists and Audiologists.

What support do we offer?

- Help to understand your child's hearing loss and how it affects your child
- Support around daily checks of hearing aids
- Encouraging good use of hearing aids
- Playgroup – a stay and play for pre-schoolers with hearing loss and their families
- Offer *radio aids*, where needed (assistive listening devices)
- Support around development of listening and language
- Emotional support for you and your child
- Training to adults working with your child
- Support around starting or changing nursery or school
- Assessment of listening and language
- Setting goals
- Written guidance on how best to support your child
- Working together with audiology

- Working with other professionals who support your child (e.g. Speech and Language Therapist)
- In-class observations
- Individual teaching sessions
- Understanding their own hearing loss (for older children)
- Opportunities for children with hearing loss to meet other deaf children
- We will share information about local support groups and voluntary agencies.

How often will support be offered?

- This will depend on:
 - Level of hearing loss
 - How much the hearing loss is affecting your child
 - If your child is about to start or change school
 - If your child has other difficulties
- How often your child is supported will be reviewed regularly and will change if needed

What contact will I have with staff from the Hearing Support Team?

- Your Qualified Teacher of the Deaf and specialist Teaching Assistant (where required) will keep in touch with you by phone, email, virtual calls and in person, depending on what is required.
- You will also be able to contact them if you have questions, concerns or need some advice.

Who can refer my child for support?

- Audiologists at the hospital – most referrals come from hospitals
- Parents/carers
- School or nursery staff
- Health visitors
- Other professionals

Hearing Support Team

Sensory and Physical Difficulties Support

Birmingham City Council

PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

To contact the Hearing Support Team directly, please email:

ssparentenquiry@birmingham.gov.uk

Further information for families of children and young people with hearing loss can be found on the Birmingham Local Offer website:

https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/send_support_services_menu/sensory-support-hearing/
