



Hearing Support Team Parent Information

The Hearing Support Team will enhance 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 (these may include: bone conduction aids, behind the ear hearing aids and cochlear implants).

Where do we support?

The type of support and where it is delivered depends on your child's diagnosis of hearing loss and its impact, and may include:

- Specialist playgroup for preschool children (0-4 years)
- 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?

The type and frequency of support offered will depend on the level of hearing loss (mild, moderate, severe or profound) as diagnosed by clinical audiologists and its impact on your child.

For children diagnosed with a **unilateral** hearing loss (affecting one ear only) or **bilateral mild** hearing loss (affecting both ears), who have been prescribed hearing aid(s), this support includes:

- Advice over the phone for parents/carers at the point of referral
- Invitation to our specialist play and stay group (children 0-4yrs old)

- On-line training module for parents/carers and professionals
- Management Plan with deaf-friendly strategies for Early Years settings and school staff.
- Signposting to other organisation, such as National Deaf Children's Society and BID Services.

For children diagnosed with a **bilateral mild to moderate** hearing loss who have been prescribed hearing aid(s), this support includes:

- Advice for parents and professionals
- Invitation to our specialist playgroup (children 0-4yrs old)
- On-line training module for parents/carers and professionals
- Management Plan with deaf-friendly strategies for Early Years settings and school staff
- Allocated visiting Teacher of the Deaf who will offer an annual monitoring visit
- If required, access to a radio aid with additional support from specialist TAs and audiology technicians

For children with **bilateral** (affecting both ears) **moderate, severe** or **profound** hearing losses, who have been prescribed hearing aid(s), the support is delivered by a visiting Teacher of the Deaf, and may include:

- Ongoing advice and support for parents/carers
- Specialist playgroup – a stay and play for pre-schoolers with hearing loss and their families
- Access to a *radio aid* (assistive listening device)
- Support around development of listening and language
- On-line or in person training for adults working with your child
- Support around transition (starting or changing nursery or school)
- Assessment of listening and language and target setting
- Written guidance with effective deaf friendly strategies for staff
- In-class observations and individual teaching sessions
- Understanding their own hearing loss (for older children)
- Opportunities for children with hearing loss to meet other deaf children

How often will support be offered?

This will depend on:

- Level and type 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?

- If your child has an allocated Teacher of the Deaf, they 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/
