



## Language Instruction Services

DDHH provides language acquisition and development services for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children ages 0-5 as well as supports and resources to their families. The goal of the program is to introduce visual language to deaf and hard of hearing children at an early age so they can develop language at this critical time that avoid irreversible delays in learning.

DDHH provides the child with an ASL Associate who will teach the child ASL and provide supports in their journey for full language development. An ASL Associate is a deaf adult fluent in ASL screened by the DDHH and can provide language instruction in childcare settings, homes, pre-schools, or other applicable settings. The ASL specialist also engages parents and families in the learning process to enhance the child's learning experience.

### Additional Resources:

**ASL Resources** - DDHH has a compilation of online opportunities, college classes, and other ways that individuals can continue their journey in learning ASL. Visit here: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/asl/>

**Communication Access** - DDHH can help coordinate and find a qualified interpreter or real-time caption provider to assist deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans accessing services in many settings including healthcare, social services and education. Please refer providers to our website here: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/>

**Hearing Aids** - If your child needs hearing aids, please see important information about Grace's Law that provides limited insurance coverage for hearing aids. Grace's Law can be accessed here: [https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/Graces-Law\\_booklet.pdf](https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/assets/documents/Graces-Law_booklet.pdf)

**Equipment Distribution Program:** Families with low incomes may benefit from equipment in our equipment distribution program to support/maximize the independence of any member in their household who is deaf or hard of hearing. Some examples are a visual smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, amplified and captioned telephones, baby alert monitors, and more. Please see here: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/>

**Wireless Devices Pilot Program:** DDHH offers a limited supply of wireless devices to families with deaf and hard of hearing children who meet income requirements to access critical information, services and supports being delivered remotely through online platforms that include DDHH's language instruction services, telehealth services, emergency information,

telecommunications, and other vital communication needs. Please see here:  
<https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/edp/wirelessproject/>

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training** - DDHH provides training to healthcare and social service providers, schools, and others on awareness of the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. Refer your provider to us for training and filling out this form: <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/>

**SPAN Deaf Mentor Program** – *Funded in part by the New Jersey Department of Health:* SPAN offers ASL Deaf Mentors and Snapshots Deaf Mentors. An ASL Deaf Mentor is an adult who is culturally Deaf and fluent in ASL. They are trained in ASL instruction, will interact with families in the home or virtually, will teach families about Deaf Culture, and introduce them to the Deaf Community. Snapshots Deaf Mentors are a group of culturally diverse Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing adults who communicate via ASL, Total Communication, Listening and Spoken Language, and/or Cued Speech. They will visit with families in the home or virtually to answer questions and share first-hand experiences. <https://spanadvocacy.org/programs/ehdi/>

For more information about DDHH's services, call 609-588-2648, 609-498-7019 vp, or email [ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov)