Equipment Distribution Program:

DDHH provides free assistance devices to eligible applicants, ensuring access to critical telecommunications and vital home safety alerting equipments. **For more information, visit:** nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training:

DDHH provides trainings to professionals, healthcare providers, government agencies, and many other organizations. Trainings are also available to the public. The goal is to provide information on deaf and hard of hearing culture, common challenges, and strategies for effective communication. **To request training, visit:** nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/dst/

Advisory Council:

DDHH hosts advisory council meetings quarterly, on the fourth Friday of the month. **For more information:** nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/about/council/

To sign up for DDHH's e-newsletter, visit:
nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/news/

Contact DDHH:
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
PO Box 074
Trenton, NJ 08625-0074
(800) 792-8339 Toll Free in New Jersey
(609) 588-2648
(609) 588-2528 Fax
(609) 503-4862 Videophone
Web: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/
Email: ddhh.communications2@dhs.nj.gov

References:
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3164118/



Language Instruction Program for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Children Ages 0 - 5

State of New Jersey

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES
DDHH
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Human Services

Language Instruction Program for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Children Ages 0 - 5

It is important for deaf or hard of hearing children to have access to early language exposure during the most critical years of brain development – birth to age 3 – to avoid irreversible delays in learning. Research shows that the first five years of life are essential for language learning.The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) supports families in their journey to provide their child with the tools needed for full language acquisition and development. DDHH uses a child and family-centered approach to language acquisition for infants and children in American Sign Language (ASL). Families can use ASL alone or in conjunction with spoken language development to ensure early language acquisition and development.

How the Program Works:

Families are matched with an ASL Deaf Language Associate (DLA) to work with your family for up to 25 hours a week. ASL Deaf Language Associates are screened and work through the local Child Care Resource and Referral Center. Language instruction services are available in childcare centers, pre-school programs, summer camps, in home settings, or other settings as applicable.

ASL DLAs:

- Provide interactive communication to stimulate growth in vocabulary and linguistic structures
- Facilitate learning through making activities and curriculum accessible
- Act as language and socialization models to deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind children
- Foster and guide children in developing independence and self-confidence

To determine eligibility, provide:

- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of hearing loss such as a copy of the child's audiogram
- Proof of New Jersey residency

For more information, and to fill out an application, visit:
nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/leveling/

DDHH also offers the following services for families:

Information and Referral:

DDHH links deaf and hard of hearing residents to vital resources. DDHH provides information in a language accessible manner empowering individuals to make informed decisions.



Advocacy and Case Management:

DDHH's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist Team assists residents in eliminating barriers that individuals face in accessing every day services and act as liaisons between consumers and service providers.



Hearing Aids:

For children in need of hearing aids, Grace's Law provides limited insurance coverage. **For more information: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/resources/glaw/**



Communication Access:

DDHH can assist in coordinating interpreters and/or Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) providers through consultations to assess the best and most effective services for a given situation. DDHH also maintains a directory of qualified sign language interpreters and CART services. **For more information, visit: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/services/caption/**



ASL Resources:

DDHH has a compilation of online opportunities, college classes, and other ways that individuals can begin or continue learning ASL. **For more information, visit: nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/education/asl**

