



**GUIDE BY  
YOUR SIDE™**

## **WHAT IS HANDS AND VOICES GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™ OF PENNSYLVANIA?**

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side™ of Pennsylvania (GBYS) is dedicated to directly supporting families and their infants and toddlers who are newly identified with hearing loss by offering them the opportunity to talk to or meet face-to-face with a Parent Guide.

### **WHAT IS A PARENT GUIDE?**

GBYS Parent Guides are parents of children who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind who have received special training that prepares them to function in this important capacity. This training provides a strong foundation in supporting families without a bias towards communication modes or methods, as well as a functional understanding of formal systems and services available to families and their children. Parent Guides are able to bring their direct experience, specialized knowledge, and personal compassion to their role while making the family's needs their primary focus. They have been where you are and are willing to listen and share their experience.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?**

Families of Pennsylvania infants and toddlers (ages birth to 3) who have a hearing loss.

## WHAT CAN THE GBYS PROGRAM DO FOR MY FAMILY?

GBYS Parent Guides located throughout the state provide:

- Timely emotional support at the point of diagnosis of hearing loss
- Direct parent/peer support and networking
- Unbiased information and resource sharing specific to hearing loss, including insights on navigating the systems from a parent perspective
- Support to families throughout the Infant/Toddler Early Intervention years by combining an experienced parent's insight with knowledge of Early Intervention and educational systems
- Information about other parent support opportunities

## HOW MUCH DOES THE GBYS PROGRAM COST?

The GBYS program is provided to families at no cost.

## HOW DO I REQUEST A GBYS PARENT GUIDE?

- Complete the GBYS Referral Form on the families page on **[www.paearlyhearing.org](http://www.paearlyhearing.org)**
- Or call the Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side™ of PA Program Coordinator at **800-360-7282 x3908** (in PA only) or 717-541-4960 x3908
- Or email **[agaspich@pattan.net](mailto:agaspich@pattan.net)**

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side™ of PA is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Guide By Your Side has an office at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) and shares resources with Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA).



**GUIDE BY  
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**A program for families of a child who is deaf,  
hard of hearing, or deafblind**

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