

About Us

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization that provides unbiased support to families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing to assist them in reaching their fullest potential. We are parents, professionals, mentors and others who are connected through the community of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Through this community, we work to improve educational outcomes for our children and enhance their quality of life, by offering support, resources and encouragement to help families. Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is part of the Hands & Voices National organization. The Wyoming Chapter was started in May 2006 by Wendy Hewitt & Deb Hovde.



"As I learned of my son's hearing loss, it helped to have other moms and dads to connect with. I could call them when I needed to talk to someone about my feelings, what to do next, etc."

When I heard about Hands & Voices, I felt that Wyoming could really benefit from this kind of parent support network."



Wendy Hewitt
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices

Get In Touch



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Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is made possible through the support of and in collaboration with:

Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Early Intervention (EHDI)

307-721-6212
www.wyomingehdi.org

Wyoming Department of Education
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Outreach

307-777-6376



HANDS & VOICES™
WYOMING



Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices

Non-Biased Support for Families with Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

The Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Network Provides

Unbiased Support to families regardless of their chosen communication modes or methodology. This unbiased support makes Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices a valuable resource for professionals and families throughout the state.

Quarterly Subscriptions

Members receive quarterly mailings to the Hands & Voices National Communicator and the Wyoming newsletter. Members also receive reduced fees for Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices sponsored workshops and trainings.

Family Fun Events

Family Fun Events are sponsored throughout the state. Our family events allow Wyoming families and friends to build local support networks and learn more about the Hands & Voices community.

Advocacy Assistance

We help and support parents in learning how to advocate for their children. Children learn how to advocate for themselves by learning from their parents.



Wyoming Children's Hearing Aid Program (WYCHAP)

WYCHAP is a fund that was established in 2012 by the Wyoming Legislature. The goal of WYCHAP is to provide timely access to hearing aids (fit using best practice recommendations) for children, ages birth through the end of their high school career, identified with hearing loss who are either not insured or under-insured.

The funds are limited, distributed on a first-come first-serve basis, and availability of funding is dependent upon future legislative action.

Parent Trainings

In 2017 we held our first Parent Training. We have brought in speakers from Hands & Voices Headquarters, and from various organizations in Wyoming. Families learn more about their child's hearing loss, how to advocate for them and ways to support them. It is also a great time to meet other families and learn from each other's experiences.



Guide By Your Side (GBYS)

Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a family support program that embodies the mission of Hands & Voices. Our goal is to help engage the circle of support between providers, professionals, teachers, and parents in order to have the best possible outcomes for children and families.

GBYS provides unbiased parent-to-parent support to families of children who are deaf/hard of hearing. Trained Parent Guides work directly with families whose child has recently been diagnosed with a hearing loss. This program is free of charge to Wyoming families.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Role Models

D/HH adults who act as role models are uniquely qualified to provide families with a positive and hopeful perspective from their day-to-day, real life experiences as a D/HH person living in a predominantly hearing world.

In sharing these experiences and insights, D/HH role models may be able to articulate what a young child cannot, which brings an important perspective and credibility to discussions of the child's needs.

WEI Plus Program

The Wyoming Early Intervention Initiative (WEI) Plus Program is a statewide service delivery model provided through the Wyoming Child Development Centers and is available at no cost to Wyoming families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing from birth through two years of age.

WEI Plus can possibly be made available to children ages three to five upon request. The WEI Plus Program empowers Wyoming early intervention providers and families by providing training, resources, strategies, and coaching.

Early intervention providers and families are supported in making informed decisions to give the child the opportunity to achieve their highest potential. WEI Plus is family-centered and focuses on parents being their child's first and most important teacher.

