

Daycare Tips for Parents

You are doing great. We know this step is hard. Having a child with any additional medical need is stressful. But trusting another person to support your child's development with medical devices and/or language delays can seem daunting! We are here for you. Please reach out to one of our Parent Guides at GBYS@co-hv.org, if you need additional supports.

What to expect?

Laughter, tears, growth, and struggles. Give yourself, and your daycare provider grace. You are trusting another human being to take care of your child. That part, they have down. But when you add in a hearing difference diagnosis, now they are also helping with language development and keeping track of very expensive medical equipment. Just like at home, there will be mistakes, and a learning curve, especially if the daycare provider has not had a child with a hearing difference before.

What to Do?

- Give yourself, and your daycare provider, extra time to get to know your child.
- Be sure to walk your provider through how to put on and take off your child's devices.
- Show your provider how to change the batteries on your child's devices.
 - Consider having them record this on their cell phone for easy reference when you are not there.
- Set up a plan with your provider, on where the hearing devices should go in the event your child is refusing to wear them, during nap time, or during water activities.
 - Be sure this location is away from other children and any pets in the home.
 - Consider sending a safe box (this could be something like a small pencil box) to store the devices in during this time.
- Consider purchasing extra insurance for the devices in the unfortunate event something were to happen to them. They are after all children, and these can easily be lost on the playground, lost with toys, flushed down the toilet, etc. Find out how to handle lost or damaged devices BEFORE something has a chance to happen.
 - Hearing aid insurance can be obtained at the time the hearing aids are purchased.
 - Sometimes homeowners insurance will partially cover lost or destroyed hearing aids.
- Consider having your child wear a hearing retention accessory, like Ear Gear or a pilot cap. Bright colored stickers can also be helpful. They can catch the eye of your daycare provider to ensure they are still on, or to find them quickly.
- Provide you daycare with a one page "preview" of your child. This may include what helps your child during stressful times, quick references for hearing device supports, and/or phone numbers for parents. Examples can be found on Google while searching "All About Me Child Info"
- Join our O.U.R Project (Observe, Understand & Respond: the O.U.R. Children's Safety Project with Hands & Voices HQ to keep yourself knowledgeable, and updated on risk factors for our deaf and hard of hearing youth.
 - <https://www.handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/index.htm>

If you have a question, don't be afraid to ask



COLORADO
HANDS & VOICES™