

## My Child Can't Hear....



## Where do I go for help?

The discovery that your child is deaf or hard of hearing is often as overwhelming as it is unexpected. All of a sudden, there are so many questions, so many things to learn and so much to do for your child.

Manitoba has many places and people that help families with deaf and hard of hearing children. The people and places listed in this brochure can help you make the right decisions for your child and your family. They fall into three categories.

### Communication

Options available to help a child with a hearing loss communicate

### Education

Schools, programs and services available for deaf and hard of hearing students

### Advocacy and Support

Assistance you may need to write letters, make phone calls or go to meetings to get the services your child needs

For information about hearing testing and speech therapy, call Manitoba Health (786-7101 in Winnipeg, or toll-free at 1-800-392-1207) and ask for the number for your regional health authority.

## Communication

Communicating is important for every child but can be a real challenge for one with a hearing loss. Everyone needs to communicate as your child develops, whether by talking, using sign language or other methods. Explore all available options before choosing an approach that works best for your child and your family. Whatever choice you make, people are available to support you. They can help you learn sign language and get the technology or other skills you need.

Talking to other parents with deaf or hard of hearing children is a good way to help you make important decisions about communication. Here are some questions to ask:

- Why did you choose this option (oral, sign language, combination)?
- What did you (and other people in your family) have to learn?
- How does your child get along with other children?
- Does your child ever get frustrated or angry when unable to express his/her ideas or feelings?
- What is your child learning at school?
- What kind of special help does the school provide?

Contact the following agencies for more information about communication options for deaf and hard of hearing children.

### American Sign Language (ASL)

ASL is a natural language of the Deaf community. It is completely visual and makes use of the hands, face and body. ASL is a separate language with its own grammar and vocabulary.

### Contacts

- **Communication Centre for Children (at SMD Services)**

*Supports communication through oral (spoken), signed language or a combination of the two, depending on the needs and strengths of the child*

825 Sherbrook Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1M5  
Tel: 975-3062 or toll-free 1-866-282-8041  
TTY: 975-3012 or toll-free 1-800-225-9108  
[www.smd.mb.ca](http://www.smd.mb.ca)

- **Lion's Gate: Sign Talk Branch**

2nd floor - 285 Pembina Highway  
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2E1  
For further information contact the Deaf Resource Centre (see other side)

### Auditory-Verbal Therapy

Auditory verbal therapy 'teaches the parent to teach the child' with powerful hearing aids or cochlear implant so the deaf or hard of hearing child is taught to listen and speak.

Auditory-verbal therapy "teaches parents how to teach their child" to listen and speak. The child learns to listen and talk using hearing aids or a cochlear implant. The goal of this program is to have the child attend regular school and be integrated into hearing society.

### Contact

- **Central Speech and Hearing Clinic**  
c/o Victoria General Hospital  
2340 Pembina Highway  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2E8  
Tel: 204-477-3298  
[www.centralspeechandhearingclinic.com](http://www.centralspeechandhearingclinic.com)

### Oral Approach

The oral approach develops speaking and listening skills through amplification, vision, using lip reading and gestures.

### Contacts

- **Communication Centre for Children (at SMD Services)**  
(see above)
- **Westman Elks Preschool Aural Rehabilitation Program**  
(Home-based service offering oral and signed strategies)  
BRHA Audiology Department  
Unit 5A-800 Rosser Avenue  
Brandon, MB R7A 6N5  
Tel: 204-571-8366 or TTY 204-571-8367  
[homutha@brandonrha.mb.ca](mailto:homutha@brandonrha.mb.ca)

## Education

When the time comes to enroll your child in school, speak with your school principal about your child's needs. The principal will then contact the student services administrator in your school division/district.

For more information about schools, educational programs, and services available for deaf and hard of hearing students, contact the following organizations:

### Contacts

- **Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth**

Co-ordinator, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
206-1181 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T3  
Tel: 945-7912 or  
toll-free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7912  
[www.edu.gov.mb.ca](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca)

- **Manitoba School for the Deaf**

242 Stradford Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2C9  
Tel: 945-8934 or  
toll-free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 8934  
[principal@msd.winnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:principal@msd.winnipeg.mb.ca)

- **Your Local School Principal**

- **School Division/District Office Student Services Administrator**

## Advocacy and Support

To put services in place for your child, you may need to write letters, make phone calls or go to meetings to advocate on his or her behalf. Here are some advocacy organizations that may help:

### Contacts

- **Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Manitoba (CAEDHH-MB)**

Provincial affiliate of a national organization of teachers and other professionals involved in the education of deaf and hard of hearing students  
c/o Manitoba School for the Deaf  
242 Stradford Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2C9  
Tel: 945-8934 or  
toll-free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 8934

- **Deaf Resource Centre (CDRC)**

A lending library of books, videotapes and other resources for parents and community members  
c/o Deaf Centre Manitoba  
285 Pembina Highway  
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2E1  
TTY and fax: 204-284-9373  
(Voice calls via 1-800-855-0511)  
[www.geocities.com/deafmanitoba](http://www.geocities.com/deafmanitoba)

- **Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters (MAVLI)**

Non-profit organization promoting high quality standards and professional sign language interpreter standards and services  
P.O. Box 68056  
RPO Osborne Village  
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2V9  
[www.geocities.com/mavli\\_mb](http://www.geocities.com/mavli_mb)

- **Manitoba Deaf Association (MDA)**

Affiliate of the Canadian Association of the Deaf and a Deaf community group supporting social events and political advocacy for Deaf Manitobans  
240-285 Pembina Highway  
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2E1  
TTY/fax: 204-453-1840  
(Voice calls via 1-800-885-0511)  
[mbdeaf@mts.net](mailto:mbdeaf@mts.net)

- **Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MASHA)**

Provincial registering body for speech-language pathologists and audiologists  
2-333 Vaughan Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3J9  
Tel: 204-453-4539 or fax 204-477-1881  
[msha.ca@shawbiz.ca](mailto:msha.ca@shawbiz.ca) or [www.msha.ca](http://www.msha.ca)

- **SMD**

Services and funding support for eligible families with deaf and hard of hearing children  
825 Sherbrook Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1M5  
Tel: 204-975-3010 or TTY 1-800-225-9108  
[www.smd.mb.ca](http://www.smd.mb.ca)

- **VOICE**

An organization of parents who use the auditory-verbal method  
c/o Central Speech and Hearing Clinic  
2340 Pembina Highway  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2E8  
Tel: 204-477-3298  
[www.centralspeechandhearingclinic.com](http://www.centralspeechandhearingclinic.com)

