

## WHY A SUPPORT NETWORK?

When a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, the parents often want to talk with other parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. This is sometimes more difficult in communities outside of the lower mainland because of the small numbers of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Through a parent support network, the BC Family Hearing Resource Society has established a means for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to have contact with one another.

from a parent...

***“When our child was first diagnosed we felt so isolated. It seemed like we were the only family in the world with a deaf child. The other family helped us so much; they understood what we were going through. They had experienced similar frustrations with their child’s behaviour before he was able to express himself. John and I no longer feel so alone.”***

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Parents tell us that their own friends and neighbours often do not really know what it is like to have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. These parents found it helpful to have the opportunity to share experiences, concerns, and ideas with other families in similar situations.

from a parent....

***“This was one of the most positive experiences we have had in dealing and coping with our child’s hearing loss. We had never before seen another child wearing hearing aids! The other parents understood our worries and questions and were able to give us many useful tips.”***

## WHO DO WE CONTACT TO PARTICIPATE?

You can obtain an application form by calling the Centre, toll free, at 1-877-584-2827.

The information on the form will help us to match you with another family who share similar concerns or experiences. We will however need your signature.

Your information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used to make matches with other families in the Parent to Parent Support Network.

## HOW WILL IT WORK?

The Family Support Parent will call you before making a match. This personal connection will enable her to better understand your needs and therefore make the best possible match for your family.

When an appropriate match is made, you will be contacted by letter and given the name and number of the matching family. If you do not feel comfortable contacting the matched family, arrangements can be made for them to contact you.

Some of the ways families have connected include:

- one-time only phone conversation
- on-going phone conversations
- visit with the matching family
- corresponding through email

## FOLLOW-UP:

You will be contacted by the Family Support parent within a few weeks of receiving your matching family to be sure that the Network has provided you with appropriate support. At that time you can request another match if you feel this would be helpful.

You can contact the BC Family Hearing Resource Society at any time with questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions.

For more information contact:

BC Family Hearing Resource Society  
15220 92nd Avenue  
Surrey, BC V3R 2T8

or call:

604-584-2827 voice

604-584-9108 tty

604-584-2800 fax

or toll free at  
1-877-584-2827

***Parent to Parent  
Support Network  
for parents of deaf and  
hard of hearing children throughout  
British Columbia***



BC Family Hearing Resource Society

**BC FAMILY HEARING  
RESOURCE SOCIETY**