



# PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au

## Someone who understands

After learning your child is deaf or hard of hearing you may have many questions. Deaf Children Australia (DCA) is here to help with our free Parent Mentor Program. It can be reassuring to speak with another parent, someone who has travelled a similar path and can provide unbiased information and support during this time. Our Parent Mentor Program is available state-wide across Queensland and Victoria. Trained Parent Mentors are available to meet with families through one-on-one visits or phone contact. This can take place:

- In your home
- In your community
- At Early Intervention Centre playgroups
- Family network events



SOMEONE

WHO



UNDERSTANDS

# Connect with other families

You might like to connect with other families who share similar experiences. We can help facilitate this through a range of online and face to face catch ups. We will introduce you to a supportive, welcoming and active network of families who have a child or children who are deaf or hard of hearing. All children are welcome regardless of preferred communication methods or hearing devices.

Whether you are just starting out, or have many years' experience, you are very welcome to join your local group. There is no cost to join, and all catch ups are inexpensive, all inclusive, fun family activities. So join our community and build connections and share experiences.

Providing the Right Supports for You and Your Child.

**Want to know more?**

**Contact us, a referral is not required.**

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**Telephone: 0424 782 027**

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## Positive Futures

**A mum explains how she and her husband were feeling after their son's diagnosis:**



When my second son was diagnosed with a profound bi-lateral hearing loss, it was such a confronting experience. When he was a month old, we spent hours in the hospital struggling to understand all the information being relayed by a string of specialists. Then we met our Parent Mentor, for the first time since the diagnosis, I thought this is someone who really knows how overwhelmed you can feel.

We appreciated how fortunate we were to have so much support and technology available, but it was so important to talk with a parent who could put it all into perspective, to help us feel much more positive about our son's future and to feel hope.

Now, he is doing so well.



## Building Connections

**A mum who has accessed Deaf Children Australia's Parent Mentor Program explains how her family's journey changed after connecting with a Parent Mentor:**



My son's hearing loss was identified at the Newborn Hearing Screening. We just kept plodding along from one specialist to the next, but there were some defining moments on our journey. For instance, when an audiologist organised a Parent Mentor to ring me. Finally someone actually understood exactly what I'd been through.

Importantly, speaking to another parent normalised everything for me. I felt connected and I had a sense of belonging. By talking to another parent, I got the gift of empowerment and strength - which every child needs from their parents.

