

Deaf
Children
Australia.

FLYING COL OURS.

YOUR CHILD.
YOUR JOURNEY.

introducing flying colours,
proudly brought to you by
Deaf Children Australia.



*How do I know
if the advice I'm
getting is the best
option?*

“There’s so much information out there [and] lots of gaps in what you understand. And that’s the hard bit: you’ve been given this information and you want to launch into action – and you don’t know what to do.”

HANNAH, MUM TO HAYDEN, WHO HAS A BILATERAL, MODERATE, SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

Discover more of Hannah’s story in this video from Flying Colours:

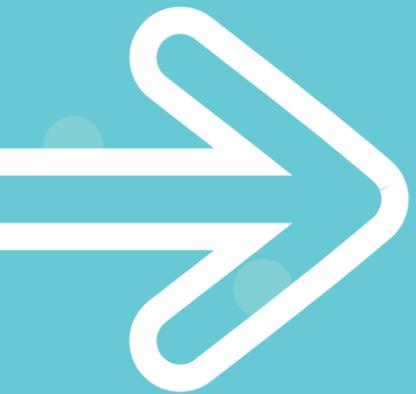
When you first discover your child is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH), you may get bombarded with advice. From friends and family to health professionals, you'll probably hear lots of different opinions.



So, how do you sort good advice from bad or work out which is best for your child and family?

Fortunately, there are ways to sift through your options and make informed decisions.

consider the quality of the advice



Some opinions hold more weight than others. **For example, evidence-based advice from a specialist is a lot more credible than advice from an Instagram influencer.**

Well-meaning people may not have the most up-to-date or thorough

knowledge, whereas your health professionals do.

Seek information from legitimate, research-backed sources that are not trying to push a specific approach or service.

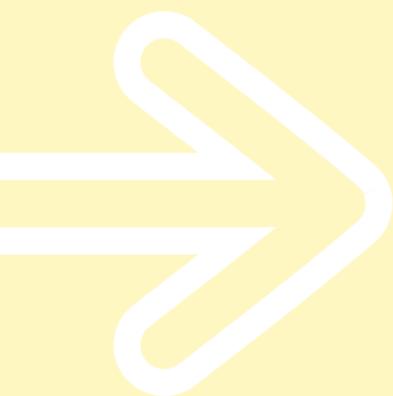
“Throughout our journey, I have relied on the advice of the professionals. So after speaking with CFC professionals it was clear that hearing aids would benefit Emelia, so there wasn't even a question in our mind if she would have them or not.”

**ALEISHA, MUM TO EMELIA, WHO HAS A BILATERAL
SENSORINEURAL MILD TO MODERATELY SEVERE LOSS**

DISCOVER MORE OF ALEISHA'S STORY IN THIS VIDEO FROM FLYING COLOURS:
www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/aleisha-my-story/

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seek advice from several people

It can be helpful to seek opinions from a few different people, including other parents of deaf children and various health professionals.

If you get the same advice from a range of sources, it's more likely to be right.

make changes if you need to

Your choices are not set in stone. You can always change direction if things aren't working out how you'd hoped. Knowing this can free you from 'analysis paralysis' and allow you to move on.

"I've tried other groups but I found [this club] to be the one that helped me the most. They were the most accepting."

EWEN, DEAF TEENAGER AND SEA SCOUT CLUB MEMBER



trust your instincts

There's a place for trusting your gut when you're making decisions. You know your child best, so don't let someone pressure you into something that feels uncomfortable. You can always seek out more information before making a choice.

Remember, health professionals can partner with you in finding options that work for your child and family. Don't be afraid to share your thoughts with them and ask them lots of questions.

other helpful resources

THE FLYING COLOURS WEBSITE HAS INFORMATION TO HELP YOU MAKE CHOICES ABOUT:

COMMUNICATION OPTIONS

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/bimodal-bilingual-choices/

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/early-childhood-intervention-can-make-a-difference/

OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/choosing-a-school-ask-the-right-questions

what is flying colours?

Flying Colours is an Australian-first website designed to support parents raising a child with a hearing loss and fully funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

SOLVING A PROBLEM.

The overwhelming majority of D/HOH children are born to hearing parents. More often than not these parents have no experience of deafness and are suddenly faced with the complexities of raising a child with a hearing loss.

After the diagnosis, parents are often overwhelmed not only the diagnosis but the wave of medical appointments, decisions and information that they have to digest – all while raising a newborn.

WHY WE CREATED IT.

Although there is endless information available on deafness, we were aware that the parents were often overwhelmed with the quantity of advice and information available.

We wanted to provide an unbiased, curated place for parents who were starting their journey of raising a child with a hearing loss.

what can be found on *flying colours*?

Everything that we thought would help including:

All about deafness. Find out about deafness from parents with a lived experience, young working adults and our Parent Mentors.

Research. Snappy plain English summaries of relevant research.

Social Opportunities. Links to help you navigate your day - meet our Parent Mentors, check out Facebook groups, social groups and more here

Service Finder. An Australia-wide clickable map with relevant professionals and service providers.

Stories. Stories and videos of parents who are raising a children with a hearing loss.



*thank
you*

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au