

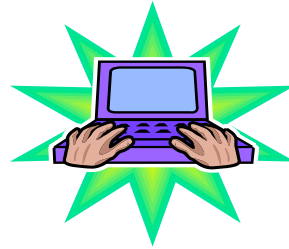
NOW WHAT???

- **Relax!! Enjoy your child.** Your child will be fine, really.
- **Start asking questions.** Navigate the wealth of knowledge online! You are **NOT** alone. There are lots of parents out there willing to help.
- **Get involved with a support group.**
- **There are many ways you can communicate with your child.** Learn about them and decide for yourself what is best for your child.
- **Find out how to help your child use fully whatever residual hearing he or she has.**
- **Language development is the most critical during a child's first few years.** Begin early intervention to help you and your child get started.
- **Enjoy your child. He/she will only be little once.** **Don't let his/her hearing loss define him/her.**

For information regarding the Lancaster County parent support group see

Families of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Listserv,

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FamiliesofChildrenD_HH/



Additional online resources can be found at <http://www.dhhs Lancaster.org/sub/education/>.

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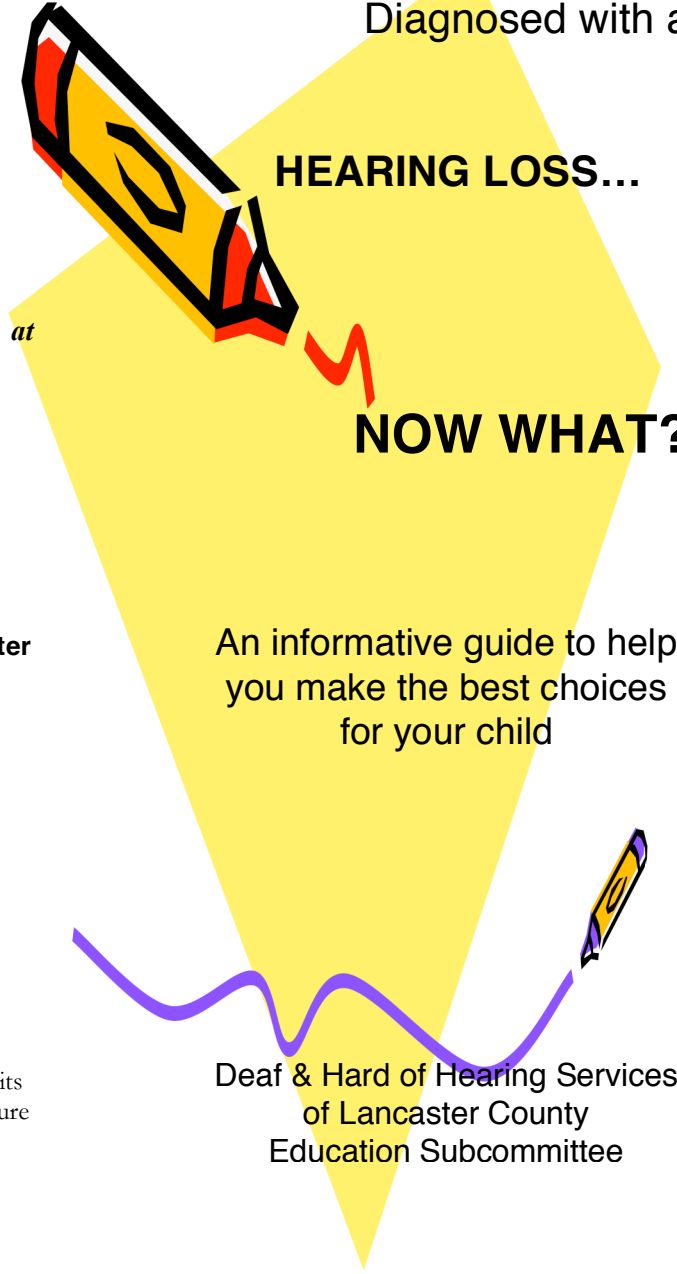
Your Child Has Been Diagnosed with a

HEARING LOSS...

NOW WHAT?

An informative guide to help you make the best choices for your child

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services of Lancaster County Education Subcommittee





Why did my child's hearing loss happen? Is hearing loss permanent? What can I do about it?

Talk with your child's doctor. Ask for resources or check your local library. See online sources for information on hearing loss.

Who can help me understand my child's residual hearing (how much he/she can hear)? Will my child need amplification and if so, what? How much can my child hear with amplification? Will it "fix" my child's hearing?

Your child's doctor will probably refer you to a pediatric ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) specialist and/or pediatric audiologist. If not, ask your doctor to refer you or check in the phone book and contact one.

Will my child learn to talk or read lips?

Anything is possible. However, much will depend upon the amount of residual hearing and speech therapy your child has.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers:

How do I communicate with my child?

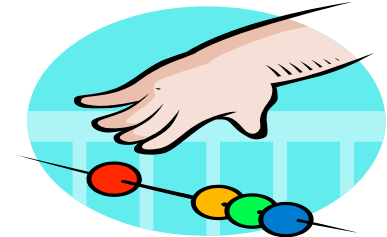
The communication methods currently used to teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing are listed below:

- 1) American Sign Language (ASL)
- 2) Auditory/Verbal
- 3) Oral
- 4) Cued Speech
- 5) Total Communication

What works for you and your family may not work for others. If you try one method and it does not work, try another method.

How will my child learn language? Is there a special program such as early intervention or preschool for my child?

Your child's first three years are very important in acquiring language. In order to give your child the best opportunity to acquire language, whether spoken and/or signed, it is important to begin early intervention immediately after learning of your child's hearing loss.



What is early intervention?

Early intervention supports families with children with special needs. Your child will qualify due to the hearing loss diagnosis. You may receive special instruction from a teacher trained to work with children of hearing loss, in addition to other possible services. Your child's doctor, audiologist or other professionals can refer your child for early intervention services. You can also self refer your child to an early intervention program.

What are my child's educational options?

Ultimately, it is your right as a parent to decide where and how your child is educated. Check with your local school district as well as other schools in or near your area.

Is there a support group for parents and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing?

Yes! A support group in Lancaster County was formed the summer of 2009. All families of children with all levels of hearing loss are welcome. See the back of this brochure for more information.