

GUIDE-BY-YOUR-SIDE PROGRAM

JOB DESCRIPTION: REGIONAL PARENT GUIDE

The Parent Guide will work with parents of newly diagnosed children with hearing loss. When a child is identified with a hearing loss, a Parent Guide in that region will be contacted by the WESPDHH Outreach Program Birth to Six Coordinator. The Parent Guide will provide up to 3 home visits. The goals of these home visits will be to:

- provide parents with the opportunity to establish a supportive relationship with another parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind;
- provide parents with unbiased information regarding communication options for their child;
- provide parents with an understanding of the unique needs of infants who are deaf/hard of hearing;
- link parents to resources available locally, regionally and statewide;
- link families to their county Birth to Three Program and/or the local school district.

The WESPDHH Outreach Birth to Six Services Coordinator will oversee the linking of a Parent Guide with a family, will provide support and training to Parent Guides and will oversee the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.

PAY

Parent Guides will be paid \$13.00 per hour, for up to 6 hours per family. Mileage will be reimbursed.

SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS

- Newly hired Parent Guides must be the parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.
- Parent Guides must be able to describe options for families in an unbiased manner.
- Parent Guides must be able to support families regardless of the educational and/or communication mode option they select.
- Parent Guides must have knowledge of local and regional resources.
- Parent Guides must have an understanding of the unique needs of infants who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Parent Guides must have an understanding of the Birth to 3 and early childhood system for Wisconsin and work collaboratively with the Birth to 3 service coordinators and school personnel.
- Parent Guides must be willing to continue training through attendance at case conferences and ongoing training.
- Parent Guides will be able to demonstrate comfort in supporting parents through the emotions associated with learning of their child's diagnosis.

EXPECTATIONS

- Once contacted by the Outreach Birth to Six Services Coordinator, the Parent Guide will meet with a new family within 2 weeks.
- Parent Guides will provide their own transportation and must be willing to travel up to one hour, each way. Mileage will be reimbursed.
- Parent Guides will complete all necessary paperwork, including home visit logs and documentation of their work.
- Parent Guides will have access to the internet and/or a fax machine.
- Parent Guides will attend the mandatory Parent Guide Training on February 13th and 14th, 2004.
- Parent Guides will attend 3 out of 4 case conference meetings per year in their region, through distance learning technology.
- Connect the family with the Birth to 3 service coordinator or public school by the third home visit.