

# Family Support and Connections



“Thank you for caring about my daughter so much! The resources you offered helped us find something that worked for our family.”

## Individual and Group Support

CID’s family support specialist holds a master’s degree in counseling and is dedicated to providing free support to caregivers. Individual consultations are held via phone, e-mail or in-person conversation and focus on grief support, parenting a child with hearing loss or general child development. CID also offers facilitated group support on topics related to hearing loss through the Hearing from the Heart program.

“My other friends try to understand, but they really don’t know what it’s like. My CID friends know what it’s like!”

“Being with other families made a huge difference in knowing I wasn’t alone.”



## Social Events

CID knows the importance of meeting and socializing with other families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. CID offers a variety of social events throughout the year.

Past events have included CID Night at the Magic House, CID Night at the Ballpark, CID Night at the History Museum and Family Game Night. These fun family events provide opportunities for parents to connect, for children to engage in fun activities and for other family members to be around children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Additionally, graduates of CID are invited to participate in the Young Alumni Club. This group meets several times a year and provides children opportunities to socialize and stay connected with CID friends.

## Connection to Community Resources

CID’s family resource specialist helps research and connect families to resources in the community. Whether a family is searching for a new pediatrician or mental health resources or looking for car seat safety information or assistive technology, CID is dedicated to helping to meet our families’ needs.





## *Hearing from the Heart*

CID's Hearing from the Heart program offers regularly scheduled opportunities to get know other families and help one another learn about parenting a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Facilitated meetings include a time to connect with other adults and talk about topics important to parenting a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.



“Getting connected with other families going through what I was going through — the grieving, the confusions, the roller-coaster of emotions — it just helped so much!”

### Some Previous Group Topics

- Up-and-coming hearing technology
- Deaf culture and the history of deaf education
- Fun apps to promote language
- Executive function and hearing loss
- Mindful parenting
- Q&A with teens/young adults who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Q&A with parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Community resources for children who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Safety and emergency planning

*“The Hearing from the Heart sessions we attended offered camaraderie between parents as well as information that took away some of our fears. It helped us immensely and set us up for success.”*



CID's family support specialist, Patti Hoffman, has been part of the CID family since 2005. She has a background working with children and families through many years as both an educator and a counselor.

Patti uses her skills to help families navigate the emotional journey of parenting a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

For more information:

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