



Illinois Service Resource Center

Behavior Support For Students- Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired

A Technical Assistance Center of the Illinois State Board of Education

847-559-8195 Voice 847-559-9493 TTY 800-550-4772 Helpline (24 Hour)

Email: isrc@isrc.us Internet site: www.isrc.us

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Dear Parents,

The Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC) is a statewide organization that provides behavior support for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. ISRC team members work with educational teams and families to develop strategies that encourage positive behavior in students. There is no cost for ISRC services.

ISRC has many resources for parents such as free library materials by mail and free home visits to help with child behavior. For more information on ISRC services please call us at 847-559-8195.

The ISRC Team

ISRC Parent Facilitators

ISRC Parent Facilitators coordinate various activities for parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. This includes workshops for parents on various topics, parent meetings, and a volunteer program.

If you are interested in connecting with your local ISRC Parent Facilitator, or if you are interested in applying for the paid position of Parent Facilitator, please contact ISRC at isrc@isrc.us.

Summer Break Survival Tips For Parents of Students Who are D/HH

- Develop a list of contact information for friends from school. Set up some play date exchanges before the school year ends.
- Review the Recreation and Leisure page in the ISRC Resource Directory (available online or by request) for a list of camps and summer activities.
- Visit the ISRC Library catalogue on the website (www.isrc.us) for books, videos, and games that can be checked out. Items are mailed to families with postage paid envelopes included.
- Incorporate language enrichment activities in your summer plans. There are many resources online and in libraries, such as <http://www.megaskills.org/summerLearningMain.html>. Also, the ISRC Librarian can assist you with locating fun activities for your child.
- Continue to prompt and reinforce appropriate behavior.
- Establish a visual calendar of events to assist with predictability.
- If you do not have a videophone, you may wish to request one at www.sorenson.com or find a location where your child may use one.
- Practice your sign language skills.
- Sign up for the monthly ISRC Digital Update e-mail, which includes a list of upcoming events for students who are D/HH and their families.
- Join and volunteer for deaf events in your area.
- Pay attention to your own stress levels. Identify respite services in your area. To network with other parents visit the Illinois Hands and Voices website: www.ilhandsandvoices.org
- In the event of a behavioral concern or crisis situation, contact the Illinois Service Resource Center at 800-550-4772.

Summer Language Activities for Families

- Create a family newsletter about events and activities of family members.
- Pick a word of the day, and see who can use it most often in a sentence.
- Write a review of a television show or movie.
- Turn-taking stories – one person starts a story and the next person has to add on to it.
- Name two objects and the other person has to say what is similar and what is different about them.
- Write a letter to a grandparent, teacher, friend, or someone famous.
- Look at old pictures together and discuss the memories.
- Plan a meal – develop a menu and shopping list.
- Do something nice for someone else every day and write it on a calendar.
- Ask your child to identify the reasons for a character’s behavior on a television show or in a movie.
- Cut words out of magazines and junk mail. Use them to make sentences.

Summer Social Connections Important

The summer months can be lonely for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. During the school year they are able to see friends daily in school, but over the summer they can be isolated from others who can communicate with them fluently. Helen Keller once said that blindness cut her off from things, but deafness cut her off from people. Be sure to create opportunities for your child to spend time with other children who are deaf and hard of hearing over the summer.

Behavior Tip:

“Narrate” your own behavior to explain the reasons why you do things.

Example:

“I would like to sit on the couch and watch television, but I need to do the dishes first, because that is my responsibility.”

ISRC Library Mails Books and Includes FREE Return Postage

The Illinois Service Resource Center library includes hundreds of books, DVDs, games, and other resources. Families and educators may request the items by phone, fax, or e-mail. The items are then mailed out with return postage included. There is no cost to use the library. Topics include deaf culture, behavior, autism, ADHD, sign language, teen issues, sensory integration, social emotional learning and others. The full catalogue can be viewed by visiting the ISRC website at www.isrc.us and selecting the library tab. To request a book call ISRC at 847-559-8195, or fax 847-559-8199, or e-mail isrc@isrc.us