



# Parent Connections

## Illinois Service Resource Center

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

*A Service and Resource Center of the Illinois State Board of Education*

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November/December 2017

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 a free library by mail and free home visits to help with child behavior. For more information on ISRC services feel free to contact 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 and a volunteer program.

If you are interested in connecting with the ISRC Parent Facilitator, or if you are interested in applying for the paid position of Parent Facilitator, please contact ISRC at [isrc@isrc.us](mailto:isrc@isrc.us).

### Tips for Surviving the Holidays

The holidays can be a time of joy, but they can also be a time of stress for both parents and students. Students who are home for winter break may struggle with uncertainty about expectations, feeling isolated from friends, and changes in routine.

Parents can help by providing a sense of predictability. Share information about who will be at holiday celebrations, including names and relationships. Pictures of each individual can be helpful, if available. Explain the holiday, why it is celebrated, and any special family traditions.

Children feel a sense of pride when they are given a special responsibility. Some examples include an opportunity to cook something for the meal, set up holiday decorations, create centerpiece or placemats, set the table, wrap/ pass out gifts, create / pass out party favors, be the photographer, or participate in a community service project.

Visual strategies can be helpful during the holiday break. Use calendars to show how many days until celebrations and how many days until school starts again. Role play and practice can also be helpful with greetings and responses to frequently asked questions. For example, it may be helpful to role play how to respond when receiving an undesired gift. Reading a holiday story together can help your child understand the holiday, and provide special time together. For children who communicate in sign language, some families have hired an interpreter to facilitate communication at parties.

# Teach, Model, Prompt and Reinforce Expected Behaviors at Home

Parents who would like to see different behavior at home can Teach, Model, Prompt, and Reinforce expected behaviors. The first step is to identify the behavior you would LIKE to see. Often, adults tell children what they are NOT allowed to do, telling children to stop it, quit, and don't do those behaviors. When you identify the behavior you would like to see instead, teach your child the behavior expectation. Model the expected behavior for your child and have your child Model the behavior for you. Prompt your child to exhibit the expected behavior. For example, remind your child about the behavior expectations before heading to the store or before it is time to get ready for bed. Reinforce your child for demonstrating appropriate behavior. This can be with verbal praise, or by earning something at the end of each day for demonstrating appropriate behavior, such as stickers, stars, or smile faces. If it is appropriate for your child, the stickers, stars, or smile faces can be traded in for special time with a parent.

## Behavior Tip:

Remember to *model* the behaviors you **want** to see *more often* than you correct the child.

## Parent Involvement in Learning at Home

Some ways that parents can become involved in their child's learning at home include:

- playing games
- reading
- visiting museums
- telling stories
- reviewing student work
- practicing skills
- monitoring and discussing homework

## *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](http://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](mailto:isrc@isrc.us)

Book of the month: *Behavior Problems* by Baker, Bruce L.

A step-by-step manual to help parents/caregivers of youth with disabilities understand and respond to difficult behavior. Contents include identifying the behavior, examining the behavior, and initiating a program to change the behavior.

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Join the ISRC Yahoo Parent Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ISRCParentFacilitators>