

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE HEARING LOSS?



"It's changed my world...(the Institute) opened my eyes to the diversity of hearing loss."

Do you have questions about communication options, language development, amplification, social-emotional development and school programs?

All of your questions can be answered in one place!

INSTITUTE FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

JUNE 10-14, 2025



Visit <https://go.uic.edu/InstituteVideos> for videos about the Institute's powerful impact on families.

What is the Institute?

The Institute is a free program for parents of children (through age 6) who have a significant hearing loss. Parents and caregivers will learn about hearing loss and their child's individual strengths and needs. Participants will also meet other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Mission Statement

The Institute provides information and support to families so they can make informed decisions on behalf of their child who is deaf or hard of hearing. The Institute was summarized by one parent as "life-changing. There are people that value you for who you are, and they are only here to help..."

“Finding community here and having my son find community and people who share part of his identity is priceless.”

Who Sponsors the Institute?

The Institute receives support from:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
 - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
- Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD)
- University of Illinois Chicago’s Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

“I felt like I was all alone. And now I feel like I have a community of families that I can call when I need to talk to them about anything.”



How Do I Get More Information About the Institute?

Contact **Division of Specialized Care for Children** at (800) 322-3722 or dsccinstitute@uic.edu.

Visit our website: dsc.uic.edu/events/2025-institute-for-parents-of-preschool-children-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/



State of Illinois
J. B. Pritzker, Governor
Illinois Department of Human Services
Dulce Quintero, Secretary

More About the Institute

What do children do? Each morning the children go to classrooms with experienced teachers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Children receive hearing, psychological, speech, language and educational evaluations. Children will also have the chance to play with other children who have hearing loss.

What do parents do? Parents attend daily lectures by experts in the field to learn about raising a child with hearing loss. They also meet in small groups to discuss specific concerns and connect with other caregivers. Parents meet with professional staff to review the evaluations for their child. They also have the opportunity to learn about various communication modes used with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Lecture topics include:

- Child Development
- Language Development
- Types of Hearing Loss
- Parent Rights
- Communication Choices
- School Programming
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants
- Deaf Culture

Where is the Institute? The Institute is at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois. Jacksonville is 30 miles west of Springfield on Interstate 72.

What about siblings? Brothers and sisters can come to the Institute. They participate in activities for their age group. Siblings also stay with their families in the dorms and go to recreational activities.

What does it cost? There is no cost for families who come to the Institute. Meals and housing are provided at no charge on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf. This week is free!

Who works at the Institute? Professionals from all over Illinois come to the Institute. They come from hospitals, schools, colleges, private centers, ISD, DSCC and DPH.

DSCC, DPH and DHS/DRS do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Directors are responsible for compliance. DSCC (217) 558-2350 and DHS/ISD (217) 479-4200 (voice/TTY) or <http://illinoisdeaf.org>.