



BEGINNINGS' services are offered free of charge to residents of NC who are:

- parents or caregivers of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (ages birth - 21)
- parents who are deaf or hard of hearing
- professionals who serve these families

BEGINNINGS can provide information about:

- hearing tests, hearing aids, and assistive listening devices
- speech and language development
- strategies for school success
- programs and resources
- communication strategies and options
- educational rights and procedures
- parenting concerns



**BEGINNINGS** for Parents  
of Children Who Are Deaf  
or Hard of Hearing, Inc.

PO Box 17646  
Raleigh, NC 27619

Educating & Supporting to Empower Parents

All donations to BEGINNINGS are  
**TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

You can donate any amount at anytime.  
Anonymous donations are also gratefully accepted.



# BEGINNINGS

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN  
WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING, INC.

Educating & Supporting  
to Empower Parents



“Given accurate, objective information about hearing loss, parents can make sound decisions for their child...”

*Joni Alberg, Ph.D.*

Photo courtesy of Oticon

# Childhood Hearing Loss

Significant hearing loss occurs in 1 to 3 per 1000 live births. Additionally, 2 to 4 per 1000 children will develop hearing loss during childhood.

An estimated 120 to 360 children in North Carolina are identified each year with hearing loss that can have a significant effect on their speech and language development. More than 90% of children with hearing loss are born to parents who have normal hearing and minimal understanding of the effects of hearing loss. The challenges of childhood hearing loss must be recognized and addressed as quickly as possible.



The state of North Carolina has adopted the 1-3-6 objectives as suggested by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing: Hearing loss screening by 1-month, diagnosis by 3-months, amplification (when appropriate) and early intervention in place by 6-months.

If appropriate intervention begins by the time an infant is 6-months-old, language development can be normal, regardless of the severity of the hearing loss.

*(Yoshinago-Itano, 1999, 2000, 2002)*

Additionally, multiple studies indicate that nationally, fewer than one-tenth of children with hearing loss receive services to which they are entitled through early intervention or in the public schools.

*(English, 1995; AG Bell Assoc. 2004)*

It is imperative that parents understand the challenges of hearing loss, avenues for assistance, and the many pathways to a happy and successful adulthood. BEGINNINGS' staff members work daily to provide families with the accurate and objective information they need to make the very best decisions for their child during infancy, toddler/preschool years, elementary school, adolescence, and beyond.

**1.800.541.4327 (V/TTY)**  
or 919.850.2746  
[www.ncbegin.org](http://www.ncbegin.org)



## About BEGINNINGS

BEGINNINGS of North Carolina is a non-profit agency providing an impartial approach to meeting the diverse needs of families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who serve them. BEGINNINGS' staff members provide valuable technical information, emotional support, resources and referrals to parents and professionals. Services are free to parents in the state of North Carolina.

### GOALS

- To provide **emotional support** and **impartial information** to parents in a family-centered atmosphere.
- To **empower** parents as informed decision makers.
- To **assist** parents in getting the services they need for their child.
- To **promote early identification** of hearing loss and **awareness of early intervention programs**.



## BEGINNINGS ...

### Educating & Supporting to Empower Parents

