BEGINNINGS provides free services to North Carolina residents who are:
— parents or caregivers of children — birth to age 22 — who are deaf or hard of hearing
— parents who are deaf or hard of hearing
— professionals who serve these families

BEGINNINGS helps parents understand:
— hearing test results
— communication strategies
— amplification options
— language and speech development
— how to implement strategies for school success
— education law
— programs and resources available to their family

Empowering parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing through education and support
Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects. Nearly three of every 1,000 children are born with a permanent hearing loss and another two or three in 1,000 will develop hearing loss later. By identifying a hearing loss early in a child’s life, families can help ensure age-appropriate development.

Most children born with hearing loss have parents with typical hearing. A parent who has not previously been exposed to hearing loss may not understand the consequences for their child and their family.

That’s where BEGINNINGS can help.

In North Carolina, most infants are screened for hearing loss at birth. But hearing loss can be discovered at any age. BEGINNINGS is there from the time the hearing loss is identified, no matter what the age, and continues to be there for the family until their child turns 22.

In the first few months after learning of a hearing loss, parents and families face an overwhelming number of choices. The decisions parents make will have an impact on their child’s emotional and language development. It is important for parents to understand the challenges of hearing loss, the resources available, and the many pathways to a happy and successful adulthood.

BEGINNINGS provides families with accurate and objective information so they can make the best decisions for their child and family.

BEGINNINGS remains in contact with families as children transition from early intervention to preschool, and along the sometimes confusing paths through elementary, middle and high schools. We are there to help parents at all times understand available options and to become their child’s best advocate.

BEGINNINGS is a nationally recognized, impartial non-profit agency that meets the diverse needs of families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who serve them.

We collaborate with state agencies and organizations and serve on state and national committees, representing parents of children with hearing loss. Every day in North Carolina, we meet with parents and professionals to improve children’s lives.

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