

# Tips for Parents

---

**As a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child, you have a very special and unique role in your child's education. You are their parent and often their advocate. You see your child as a person and as a student and, like the teachers, want the best for them. The following are tips to help you when working with teachers and your child's educational team.**

- Seek information that applies to your individual situation.
- Make informed decisions based on current facts and information.
- Trust your gut instincts. You know your child best.
- Meet other deaf and hard of hearing children and adults on a regular basis.
- Be involved. You do not have to feel like an intruder or a pushy person when it comes to your child's education.
- Create natural experiences. Don't try to be parent, teacher, audiologist, doctor.... all in one.
- Trust professionals to be professional. They should also have the child's best interest in mind.
- Address issues as they come up. Don't wait for the annual review or the parent teacher conferences.
- Work with your child in whatever communication mode you selected.
- Read to and with your child often. For read aloud tips specific to reading with deaf and hard of hearing children check out the [Shared Reading](#) program.
- Provide natural experiences for your child. Have fun.
- Let your child be a kid.
- Be your child's advocate but also seek help when needed.
- Take a break for yourself.
- Keep a file organized of reports, evaluations and questions for meetings.
- Keep a written running list of concerns or questions as they come up to discuss with teachers.
- Be supportive and open to ideas.
- Be flexible and encouraging to your child.
- READ READ READ with your child.
- Don't make excuses for your child.
- Accept your child as they are.
- Include your child in all family conversations and activities.
- Give your child age appropriate responsibilities.
- Provide natural opportunities to be successful. Little things like setting the table alone for the first time are important.
- Encourage social activities with hearing and non hearing friends regularly.
- Join organizations that are right for you.
- Enjoy the parenting experience.

**\*\*From the webpage of Serena Wunderlich:**

**[http://web1.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/local/high\\_school/Teachers/swunderlich/index.htm](http://web1.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/local/high_school/Teachers/swunderlich/index.htm)**

