



• HEAR TOGETHER •



LIVING WELL WITH HEARING LOSS

We had a great session at Nottingham Nursery this week with our friends Angela Knowles (Teacher of the deaf) and Suzanne Harrigan (SLT). The theme was getting ready for school and even though most of the children were under 3, this generated lots of questions and interest, including:

- Teachers of the deaf are qualified professionals who are trained to support families with information and strategies for all aspects of life with a hearing impaired baby or child.
- Parents should expect contact with a Teacher of the Deaf at the time of diagnosis or soon after a baby is identified with hearing loss.
- ToD contact varies according to the level and type of hearing loss. If you're unsure, feel you need more support or have any other concerns, you can find out what to expect by contacting your local team.*

* **Sensory team for Nottingham City**
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/education-and-schools/inclusive-education/sensory-impairment-and-physical-disability/>
Cheryl.Gray@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Sensory team for Nottinghamshire County
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/services-for-schools-and-education-providers/additional-needs>
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- In the UK, the majority of children with hearing loss go to **mainstream schools**, with extra resources where necessary. Some children benefit from an **enhanced resource provision** in a mainstream school, and some need a **special school**. Each area has different schools available, and you can speak to your ToD about the best options for your child and their needs.
- An important role of the ToD is to help you choose the most appropriate nursery or primary school for your child. They can help you understand what to look for in a school that will meet your child's needs.
- You may hear people talking about an Education Health and Care Plan or EHCP. This is a legally binding document that defines the special education, care, and health needs of students who need extra support beyond what the school can provide. Not all children with hearing loss will need an EHCP, but you can speak to your ToD about one for your child.

- When it comes to choosing a nursery or school, it's important to give yourself plenty of time to visit potential settings before your child is due to start. This gives you time to find somewhere suitable and to work with the ToD and nursery/school to identify the best ways to support your child and meet their needs.
- The ToD will also work with the school to ensure your child's needs are met.
- There isn't a league or rating to help identify schools that successfully support children with hearing loss. You can ask your ToD and speak to other parents about their experiences and recommendations.

We have put together a handy checklist to help you!

- It is helpful to look at the OfSTED report about an individual school. Look most closely at the part of the report which considers the SEN (special educational needs) provision within the school, as well as how inclusive the school demonstrates itself to be.

We also talked about:

- **Children with hearing loss and sensory integration needs**- we are looking into getting someone to come and talk to us about this soon!
- **Using radio aids** (also known as remote microphone systems) with young children. There are mixed thoughts about this, and we will be writing about the things to consider soon.

