



# SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING



Global Coalition of Parents of Children  
who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

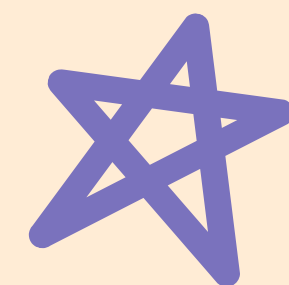


This document is intended for families to build awareness of the need for assuring the safety and protection of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.



**THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS, SO WE WILL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.**

Our kids who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf+ are 3-4 times more likely than their typically developing peers to experience maltreatment - from neglect and abuse to bullying.



# WHY?

People who want to hurt children look for potential victims who:

- are isolated, lonely, or don't seem to fit in
- are overly compliant to requests from adults or older kids without a complete understanding of the context
- don't know they have the right to say "no", may not be able to say "no" in a way that is readily understood, and might not know what to do if their "no" is not respected
- can't name body parts or express complex emotions
- can't effectively retell a story about something that has happened
- doesn't persist in telling a caring adult when they have a problem or doesn't have a safe/caring adult to tell
- are socially naïve and trusting
- are not able to recognize maltreatment when they experience it
- don't understand their own developing feelings, sexuality, and stages of maturity.





# THE GOOD NEWS

The good news is that we can help our kids become **people-smart kids**—even our youngest children.



# PARENTS CAN...



## Understand

Risks to kids come far more often from people our kids know than strangers.



## Teach

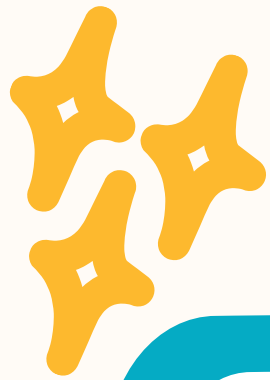
We can help protect them by teaching them to be aware of their safety and encouraging empowering safety skills.



## Practise

They can learn the behaviors to watch for and practise how to respond to unwelcome interactions.

NO CHILD SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE DEVASTATING  
TRAUMA OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR BULLYING.



Listen to your child and  
tell them you care about  
their well-being.

Never hesitate to ask your  
child questions about  
their problems or  
concerns. They need to  
know they can come to  
you if anything bothers  
them.

Practise skills that can  
keep them safe when you  
are not around.

The same skills that will keep your child safe are the ones that will help your child  
succeed in school and become the person they want to be.





# CALL TO ACTION

The Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH) recognizes that children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) cannot grow, thrive, learn or achieve at a level consistent with their potential if they are experiencing maltreatment – neglect and abuse.







As parents, we can join the professionals and systems that serve families across the globe to increase support to ending child abuse and neglect by acknowledging and engaging in actions to reduce and prevent maltreatment of children who are deaf/hard of hearing wherever they live.

Parents can teach and model behavior and take specific actions to increase the safety of their deaf/hard of hearing kids.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

The Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH) is a parent-led collaboration of parent groups dedicated to promoting improved systemic protocols and practices which encourage informed choice and the empowerment of families with a deaf or hard of hearing child throughout the world.

[www.gpodhh.org](http://www.gpodhh.org)



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