

INSTITUTE FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING



"It's changed my world...(the Institute) opened my eyes to the diversity of hearing loss."

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE HEARING LOSS?

Do you have questions about communication options, language development, amplification, social-emotional development and school programs?

All of your questions can be answered in one place!

June 9-13, 2026



What is the Institute?

The Institute is a free program for parents of children (through age 6) who have hearing loss. Parents and caregivers will learn about hearing loss and their child's individual strengths and needs. Participants will also meet other parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Mission Statement

The Institute provides information and support to families so they can make informed decisions on behalf of their child who is deaf or hard of hearing. "It's our job as parents to stay informed and stay involved and keep learning," an attending parent said. "The Parent Institute is perfect for that."



Visit <https://go.uic.edu/InstituteVideos> for videos about the Institute's powerful impact on families.

Contact the Division of Specialized Care for Children at (800) 322-3722 or dscinstitute@uic.edu.



More About the Institute

What do children do? Each morning the children go to classrooms with experienced teachers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Children receive hearing, psychological, speech, language and educational evaluations. Children will also have the chance to play with other children who have hearing loss.

What do parents do? Parents attend daily lectures by experts in the field to learn about raising a child with hearing loss. They also meet in small groups to discuss specific concerns and connect with other caregivers.

Parents meet with professional staff to review the evaluations for their child. They also have the opportunity to learn about various communication modes used with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Lecture topics include:

- Child Development
- Language Development
- Types of Hearing Loss
- Parent Rights
- Communication Choices
- School Programming
- Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants
- Deaf Culture

The Institute Receives Support From:

- Department of Human Services (DHS) - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
- Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD)
- University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Where is the Institute? The Institute is at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville, Ill. Jacksonville is 30 miles west of Springfield on Interstate 72.

What about siblings? Brothers and sisters can come to the Institute. They participate in activities for their age group. Siblings also stay with their families in the dorms and go to recreational activities.

What does it cost? There is no cost for families who come to the Institute. Meals and housing are provided at no charge on the Illinois School for the Deaf campus. This week is free!

Who works at the Institute? Professionals from all over Illinois come to the Institute. They come from hospitals, schools, colleges, private centers, ISD, DSCC and DPH.

"I felt like I was all alone. And now I feel like I have a community of families that I can call when I need to talk to them about anything."

For more information, visit: dsccl.uic.edu/events/

[2026-institute-for-parents-of-preschool-children-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/](https://dsccl.uic.edu/events/2026-institute-for-parents-of-preschool-children-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/)



State of Illinois

J. B. Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Dulce Quintero, Secretary

DSCC, DPH and DHS/DRS do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Directors are responsible for compliance. DSCC (800) 322-3722 and DHS/ISD (217) 479-4200 (voice/TTY) or <http://illinoisdeaf.org>.