

HI HOPES supports families of deaf and hard of hearing babies in South Africa !

What is HI HOPES?



HI HOPES is an early intervention program that partners with families who have deaf or hard of hearing children aged birth to three years. We provide support and education through weekly home visits that last approximately an hour a week and are free of charge.

The person who visits the family is called a Parent Advisor. The Parent Advisor is trained to help the family find answers to their questions about their child's development, communication issues, grief or any other questions they may have about life with a deaf or hard of hearing child. A unique feature of HI HOPES is that it is a home-based program and that interventionists are trained within each community, making the support local, matching the language and culture of the family on the deaf infant.

In addition to the Parent Advisor, the family's support network may also include a Deaf Mentor. This is a Deaf adult who is able to share personal experiences growing up deaf. The Deaf Mentor is also trained to be a language educator, and a bridge for the family into the Deaf Community should they so choose.

HI HOPES does not advocate for only one language method for deaf or hard of hearing children, but rather supports good communicative and other skills within the family. Our aim is to empower parents to make choices that are appropriate for them and their child and to support them every step of the way.

HI HOPES currently supports families in 3 provinces with pilot programs in 2 more. In 3-5 years HI HOPES will be a national program.

The need:

*We serve families once a week in their homes (at no cost to families), real cost to us per family per year is \$2190.00 (R22 000)

*Training materials are imported from USA (cost of materials = \$320 per person's files and activity sheets) shipping of the materials (+- \$1700 / 20 sets of files)

*Hearing Aid kits (for both our interventionists and families too poor to afford their own) - prices vary from different hearing aid companies

Hi Hopes was founded and is coordinated by Claudine Storbeck, PhD of the University of Whitwatersrand, JhB, South Africa. Claudine is a member of the Johannesburg New Dawn Rotary Club. She is a Paul Harris Fellow, was the winner (Zone 10) and finalist in the Rotary service to humanity global awards (2006) and was Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in 1995/6. You can contact Claudine at: Claudine Storbeck [claudine.storbeck@gmail.com]