

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## WITH A VIRTUAL PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

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*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller*

### Parents Connect!

A Virtual Parent Discussion group connects parents of children with hearing loss who experience similar journeys.



### Virtual Support!

A virtual forum allows parents of children with hearing loss the opportunity to build a community of support and encouragement..

Shared Experiences

Support

Understanding

Encouragement

Friendships

Connections

### Benefits:

- Connects parents of children with hearing loss.
- Reaches families living in different areas.
- Provides needed encouragement and valuable connections for families.
- Allows parents to share experiences and find support.
- Encourages a sense of community and understanding.
- Promotes parent driven discussion about what is important for them and their children.



### Feedback:

Parents of children with hearing loss who have participated in the Virtual Parent Discussion Group report that it provides **valued relationships** built through **understanding** and **open dialog**. Discussions are **positive** and **encouraging**, providing a forum for parents to feel a **sense of belonging**. The group can become a **supportive community** where parents can **share stories** and **make connections**. Celebrating **successes**, sharing **challenges** and **triumphs** can **empower** parents as caregivers and **inspire** them to continue to provide for the children's needs.

### Facilitation:

- A Virtual Parent Discussion Group facilitator:
1. utilizes social media to provide initial group information.
  2. collects contact emails for interested parents.
  3. provides a weekly email with the meeting link and meeting time.
  4. facilitates the virtual forum.
  5. welcomes new participants.
  6. promotes parent driven discussion topics.
  7. encourages positive dialog and interaction.

"It's just nice to not feel alone. In this journey you need to not feel alone."

"It's a lonely journey if you don't have people in your village. Once we reached out it was really a great thing."

"I just need my people."

"I have found so much comfort in this group."

"I know when I come and I go, I am going to feel good. You guys keep me going."

"This is out of my comfort zone, and I'm so pleased about how pleasant it has been. It lifts the burden a bit more that you are carrying on your shoulders."