

# Family Game Night

Saturday, February 26  
7:00-9:00pm

Held at:  
BC Family Hearing  
Resource Centre  
15220 92nd Avenue,  
Surrey, BC

Please bring a game  
and appetizer snack to share!



No RSVP required! Questions? [info@CHHAparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@CHHAparents.bc.ca)

January 2011



Canadian

Hard of

Hearing

Association

B.C.

Parents'

Branch

Mailing Address:

c/o Willetta Les, Editor  
10150 Gillanders Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4

Phone: 604-819-5312

Fax: 604-794-3960

[info@CHHAparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@CHHAparents.bc.ca)

[www.CHHAparents.bc.ca](http://www.CHHAparents.bc.ca)

Membership

\$30 annual fee includes  
subscription to  
*Listen/Écouté* magazine  
and *The Loop* newsletter

fun event for families with hard of hearing or deaf children & teens

Family  
Fun at  
  
CRASH CRAWLY'S

Sunday, March 13 10am-1pm  
at Crash Crawly's adventure playground

activities for your whole family!

Sponsored by:



more information & registration: [www.CHHAparents.bc.ca](http://www.CHHAparents.bc.ca)

In this issue...

- Upcoming Events: Games Night & Crash Crawly's
- President's Message - plans for 2011
- Family Weekend 2010 Pictures!
- Seating in the Classroom
- Becoming Independent

... and much more!

## President's Message ...

---

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the executive, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

Did you all have a great time at Timberline Ranch? I know our family did. We were very fortunate that the weather cooperated with our outdoor activities. For those of you that were unable to attend the Family Weekend out at Timberline Ranch in Maple Ridge, you will have opportunity to share in the fun and fellowship in September 2011 at the same venue. There was horseback riding, archery, low ropes, wall climbing, swimming, Frisbee golf, petting zoo and much more. We had many new families join us which was great! The more the merrier! See pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for some photos from the event.

We have already begun planning a number of fun family activities for this year:

- On Saturday, February 26 – 7-9pm we will be having our annual **Games Night**. See details on our cover. This is always well attended, lots of fun, and a great opportunity for families to interact.
- CHHA – Parents Branch, Family Network for Deaf Children and BC Hands & Voices are planning an event for families from all our groups to get together:  
**Family Fun at Crash Crawly's** will be on Sunday, March 13 from 10am – 1pm. This venue promises lots of fun activities for your whole family; a chance to meet new friends and network with other parents. We hope to see you there – for registration details, see the enclosed flyer this newsletter cover or our website.

- Our **Spring Workshop** is still in the planning stages so watch for updates in the next newsletter.
- Looking ahead to the fall, we have again secured **Timberline Ranch** as our location for Family Weekend 2011. Mark your calendar for September 16, 17, & 18, 2011. If you'd like to be a volunteer at this event, we'd love to have you or if you'd like to help plan this event, we'd love your input.

This year we will also be working on updating our CHHA – BC Parents Branch website and brochure. Our very own creative, multi-talented Willetta will be taking this job on. It is very important to keep this information up to date so we can let other families know that there is support out there for them. Watch for an update in our next newsletter!

Comments? Ideas? Want to get involved? We'd love hear from you! [info@chhaparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@chhaparents.bc.ca)

Thank you,

Teresa Lonn, President

Spring Workshop 2010 is available on video.

Includes all presentations:  
Pacific Assistance Dog Society,  
WIDHH,  
Dan Panccioretti ,  
and the teen/young adult panel.

Please contact Willetta  
[info@CHHAparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@CHHAparents.bc.ca) or 1-604-819-5312  
for a DVD copy.

### WHY NOT?

Because I wear a hearing aid  
I'm told to grow my hair  
And cover up my ears  
So you wouldn't see it there.  
This idea has some merit  
It's a practical disguise  
But why don't folks with glasses  
Wear their hair down over their eyes?

## Tips on how your school-age child can take small steps to start taking care of herself.

### What becoming independent means

Like all parents, you want your child to grow up into a happy, healthy adult. You want your child to be able to take care of herself by the time she is grown up. You hope your child will have friends and a good job. You might also hope your child will start her own family one day.

Children have to learn a lot of different things before they can do all this. They need to learn how to:

- be responsible
- get along with other people
- save money
- and much more!

Learning these skills is all part of becoming independent. And becoming independent is a big part of growing up. Remember: Children don't become independent overnight. It takes a lot of practice.

It can seem harder for children with a hearing loss. Some deaf/hard of hearing children have a hard time communicating - that can make it harder to become independent. Some parents are always by their child's side, helping them talk to hearing people. But even your young child can start doing small things to take care of herself.

### **How to help your child become independent**

#### Let your child make simple choices.

She can decide things like: Does she want to eat at McDonald's or at Burger King? Does she want to wear her blue sweater or her red jacket? Deaf children sometimes don't get as much of a chance as hearing children to decide things. Having your child make some decisions will show her that her opinion matters. It will also give her a feeling of control over some things. This is important for deaf children, who sometimes feel like things just seem to happen to them.

#### Teach your child to ask for things herself.

Like telling the waiter what food she wants at a restaurant. Or asking for the ice cream flavor she wants. This can take more time for deaf children. But it's important for your child to learn how to do these things for herself. You won't always be there to speak or interpret for her. And even though it might be hard at first, it will get a little easier each time. Your child will see that she can get along in the real world.

#### Expect a lot from your child.

She will know if you let her get away with things that her brothers and sisters don't get away with. Like not cleaning her room, or not doing her homework. Your child might need extra help with some things, but she can still do the same things as children with normal hearing. Think about what your child can and can't do. Make sure she knows that you expect her to do what she can.

#### Teach your child to take care of her hearing aids or cochlear implant.

If your child uses a hearing aid or cochlear implant, then she needs to know how to use it even if you're not there to help. Show her how to put it in, and how to clean it. And how to check the battery and change it. Teach her to tell a grown-up when it isn't working.

#### Teach your child to be very careful, but let her do the things that other children do.

Like riding a bike and crossing the street by herself. Teach her to look both ways before she crosses the street. Make sure she knows that she might not hear a car horn. So she'll need to rely on things she can see to stay safe. Put rear-view mirrors on her bike, and teach her to look for cars behind her.



#### Have your child take some responsibility for her hearing loss.

Your child shouldn't always need you to translate what other people are saying. Teach her to ask people to repeat something if she didn't understand the first time. First show her how to talk to her teacher if she's missing part of the lessons in school, then encourage her to do it herself. She'll need to do these things when she's grown up. It'll be a lot easier if she starts practicing now.

#### Tell your child it's okay to make mistakes.

This makes your child feel safe if she makes a mistake. Most children learn a lot from their mistakes. But they might not want to try again after making one. Encourage your child to try new things, and let her know you're proud of her attempts, no matter what happens.

Source: [www.raisingdeafkids.org](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org)

CHHA BC PARENTS BRANCH PRESENTS  
**FAMILY WEEKEND**  
September 17, 18, and 19, 2010 | Timberline Ranch  
info@chhaparents.bc.ca (604)819-5312





# Seating in the Classroom

*Reprinted from our May 2000 newsletter, this article is from "The Hearing Impaired Child in the Jewish Classroom" by Batya Jacob, National Jewish Council for the Disabled.*

All students with any degree of hearing loss must have preferential seating. The student should be seated with his/her better ear towards the teacher. Preferential seating is critical for students with fluctuating hearing losses as well as those with permanent loss. This will ensure that the student hears the teacher's voice and sees the teacher's face optimally at all times.

Students should have an unobstructed view of the faces of their teacher and fellow students. This will help in their ability to lip-read.

Students should face away from bright lights or windows where glare will make it difficult to see the faces of the others in the classroom.

Students who wear hearing aids should be seated away from sources of environmental noises, such as air conditioning units or fans. The noise will be amplified by their hearing aids and will block hearing spoken messages.

Whenever possible, seat the hearing-impaired students close to the front of the classroom, near the teacher's desk. The closer the student is to the sound source, the clearer he/she will be able to hear the message.

Remember, the student cannot read the teacher's lips if the teacher's back is to him/her (for example, when facing the white/blackboard) or if anything is covering the mouth. Remind the student to remind the teacher when he/she inadvertently turns aside or covers his/her mouth.



Hearing-impaired students need preferential seating during assemblies and field trips as well as in their classroom. Seat

the student in the front of the auditorium and away from environmental noise sources. Have the person leading the assembly use the FM microphones and have the people speaking pass the microphone around if possible. Do not place the microphone on the floor of the stage, as this will result in footsteps being heard instead of the spoken word.

Have the interpreter stand in front of the auditorium in clear sight of the hear-impaired student so that the student can follow the interpretation of the assembly.

Remember that a hearing-impaired student who appears not to be listening may not be inattentive; he/she simply may not be hearing. As the student to check if his/her hearing aids are working. Check that a student with an interpreter as a direct, unobstructed view of the interpreter. However, do not allow the student to use his/her hearing loss as an excuse to be inattentive.

## FAMILY FUN at Crash Crawly's!!

On March 13 we are holding an joint event for families who are involved with three parent support groups: CHHA BC Parents' Branch, Family Network for Deaf Children and BC Hands & Voices. We see this event as an opportunity for families from each group to meet each other, to network and have some fun! **Details & registration info enclosed, or available on our website!**

**Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC)** is a parent support group that offers workshops, a newsletter and information bulletins supporting and providing information to parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and the communities that support them. FNDC uses the definition of "d/Deaf children and youth" to refer to a child or youth with any degree of hearing loss that uses Sign Language as their primary language (socially, educationally, or within their family), or one who is embarking on a journey of learning Sign Language.

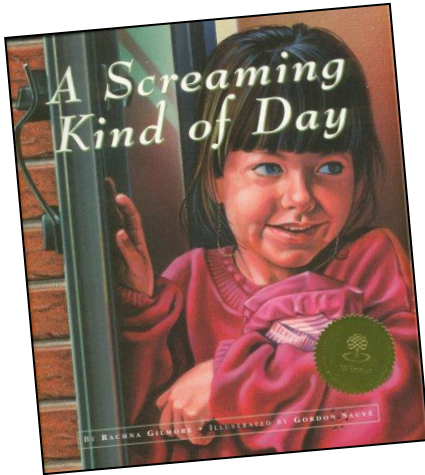
**BC Hands & Voices** supports families of young children with hearing loss by providing opportunities for families to connect and share information. We are a parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods, believing that families will make the best choices for their children if they have access to good information and support. Our goal is to support families in achieving successful outcomes for their children.

## **“A Screaming Kind of Day”**

by Rachna Gilmore, illustrated by Gordon Sauve

Review by Leila Lolua

*“It’s a screaming kind of day. I can tell the minute I open my eyes - Leo’s inches from my nose, making that cross-eyed, twisty-mouth face. He yanks my braid. I don’t bother to put in my hearing aids, I leap out of bed. I scream and chase him. He turns around long enough for me to see his lips say, “Can’t hear.”*”



*Sent to her room, Scully watches a downpour and longs to go out, to dance, dance with the rain, to shout with the green. But when she sneaks out, Mom catches her and Scully’s day goes from bad to worse...”*

We’ve all had them... a day when you feel like screaming. “A Screaming Kind of Day” is a story about Scully, who is hard of hearing, and her brother. It’s a realistic book, and I’m sure lots of families will see themselves in these pages... tussles between siblings, busy parents, kids wanting attention, timeouts, and rainy days. Throw in a child who take out her hearing aids and closes her eyes or turns her back so that she can’t lipread or listen... we’ve all been there.

I recommend this book for children aged 10 years and younger. It’s a perfect book to read with children; to share with them the frustrations of daily life, but also the simple joys. The author received input from The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association to gain insight into Scully’s world. It’s definitely worth a read, notwithstanding that the illustrations include really old style hearing aids!

On her website, Rachna Gilmore has some helpful discussion points, art projects and other tips for parents and teachers when reading this book in the classroom. Check it out at

<http://www.rachnagilmore.ca/guide-scream.html>.

Rachna Gilmore was awarded the 1999 Governor General’s Literary Award for Children’s Literature for “A Screaming Kind of Day.”

## **“Not Deaf Enough: Raising A Child Who Is Hard Of Hearing With Hugs, Humor, And Imagination”**

By Patricia Ann Morgan Candlish

Review by Michele Burke

<http://hardofhearingchildren.com>

Patricia Candlish’s book is like a map, helping you to navigate the labyrinth of inevitable obstacles that challenge both parent and child once your child has been diagnosed as being “Hard of Hearing”. The author guides you through the phases from the initial and necessary period of mourning - a normal phase - to anger, to the undeniable guilt parents feel when they find out their child is special and not the flawlessly “perfect” baby the world thinks of as “normal”. She explains how to overcome these phases, most importantly by educating both yourself and the people around you.

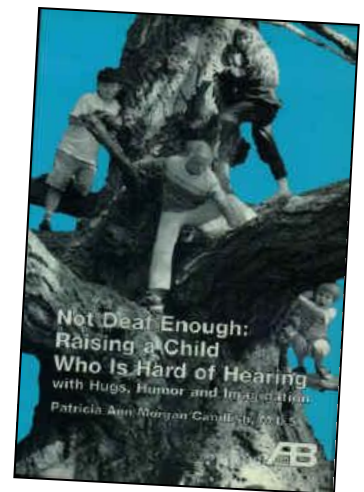
Ms. Candlish goes on to describe in helpful detail the various people you and your child may be dealing with, including audiologists, ENT’s, a speech pathologist, what you should expect from each and the questions you should be asking any professional that comes in contact with your child. Bluntness, the author assures us, is sometimes required.

Many helpful, practical tips include how do you manage to keep hearing aids on a little boy? You tie string to the aids and pin string to the back of his shirt. The aids may fall out but they will not get lost. Furthermore, the little one can’t reach them to throw them in the potty!

Ms. Candlish has packed such a wealth of information into this excellent resource that you will just have to read it yourself.

I highly recommend this book - it made me laugh and cry repeatedly in a wonderfully therapeutic rollercoaster ride. Most importantly, it helped me realize that the feelings I had were normal and I didn’t feel so alone.

Published by The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Inc., 1996.



## 2010-11 Board Members

President	Teresa Lonn
Vice President	Leila Lolua
Secretary	Nicole Grazier
Treasurer	Lynne Page
Directors at Large	Simone Felker Lisa Woogman Cathy Higginson
Parent Support	Cathy Luther Tanya Grange
Webmaster	Steve Kazemir
Administrator	Willetta Les

We operate as a team: working together to bring support parents of children who are hard of hearing.

**We welcome you to attend our next meeting...** We meet in Surrey 4-5 times per year.

Please contact Willetta at [info@chhaparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@chhaparents.bc.ca) for date and location.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are a parent group who are passionate about connecting & supporting families throughout BC who have school-aged children living with hearing loss. Through fun family activities our children develop sustaining friendships as they grow into young adults. We educate and support parents through our newsletters, workshops and other events. As a parent group, we understand the power of meeting with each other.

### **Email is our most cost-effective way to give you important information on a regular basis...**

If you are not receiving our email updates, please send your address to [info@CHHAparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@CHHAparents.bc.ca). We won't fill your inbox - we send out a few emails between newsletter publications - don't miss out!

If your address changes, please let us know to avoid returned mail.

**We love to hear from our families.** If you have any suggestions regarding events, newsletters, issues you need help with, etc., please contact us! We welcome submissions for our newsletter.

[info@chhaparents.bc.ca](mailto:info@chhaparents.bc.ca) | 1-604-819-5312

Membership is open to any individual or Organization. Annual membership fee is \$30. Membership in the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association entitles you to vote on any CHHA matter, and subscriptions to *LISTEN* magazine, CHHA-BC's newsletter *The Loop* and the Parents' Branch newsletter.



NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  Parent(s)  Professional  Other

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

H of H Child(ren):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership (\$30 annually)

Renewal (\$30 annually)

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider donating to CHHA BC Parents' Branch via United Way – our charity number is 86215 7302 RR0001.

We sincerely thank the Province of B.C. for their funding support for our Newsletter publication and Family Weekend.

**Thank you! Your support benefits hard-of-hearing children in BC...**

Payable to: CHHA B.C. Parents' Branch – c/o 10150 Gillanders Road; Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4 - Phone: 604-819-5312