



children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families.



About VOICE

A Legacy of Support VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing was founded in the early '60s by determined parents who sought to provide assistance to families navigating the challenges of raising children with hearing impairments. Their unwavering commitment was to ensure that their children could receive an inclusive education alongside their hearing peers in mainstream schools. Through their collective efforts, this vision became a reality, fostering a strong sense of community and the sharing of invaluable information and support.

Today, the VOICE network has grown into one of the largest parent support organizations for families of children with hearing loss, boasting approximately 1,000 members, with chapters in Ontario and affiliates in Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec. Our organization is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes parents of children with hearing loss and friends of the organization. We extend an open invitation to join us and contribute to creating a brighter future for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

What We Do

VOICE's programs and services revolve around three key areas:

- Advocacy: Championing the rights and needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.
- Family Support: Providing a strong, supportive community that embraces diverse communication approaches and offers essential resources.
- Public Education: Promoting awareness and understanding that children who are deaf or hard of hearing can learn to listen and speak.

Membership and Outreach

VOICE offers a free one-year membership for newly diagnosed children with hearing loss, providing access to educational resources, financial assistance, and special events.

Advocates for Inclusive Education

VOICE has been a prominent voice in advocating for inclusive education and support for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We continue to actively engage with government bodies and advisory committees to shape policies that benefit our community. One of our primary objectives is to raise public awareness and understanding of the potential for children with hearing loss to learn to listen and speak.



Comprehensive Early Intervention Programs

Throughout 2022, we collaborated with healthcare institutions and professionals to advocate for early intervention programs benefiting families with deaf or hard-of-hearing infants and toddlers. Our support for parents with deaf babies, both in private and public organizations, yielded successful outcomes.



Engaging the Deaf Community

In 2022, we implemented targeted events and workshops aimed at fostering a sense of belonging and personal growth among deaf teenagers, nurturing their immense potential.

Promoting Deaf Awareness in Education

We took to social media to share online deaf awareness posts designed for teachers, enhancing their understanding of the needs and communication approaches of deaf students.

Achieving Financial Sustainability

In our pursuit of financial sustainability, we established a fundraising committee for Dress Loud Day, explored individual donations, and leveraged our strong online presence and social media strategy to reach a wider audience and attract potential donors and sponsors.

Building our Organizational Structure

In 2022, we developed a volunteer recruitment and retention program, strengthening our support network for the organization's initiatives. Additionally, we evaluated the feasibility of recruiting a part-time grant writer and bookkeeper. Training and capacity-building opportunities were provided to board members and volunteers, maximizing their contributions.

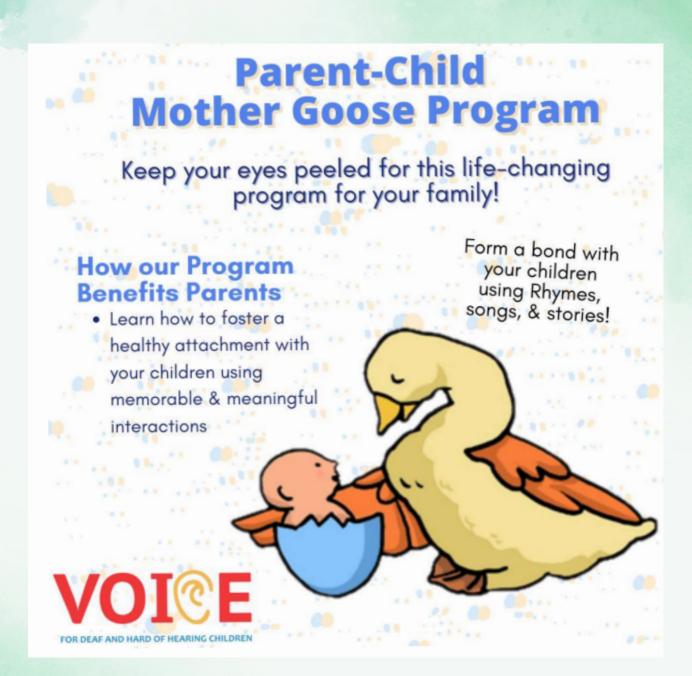
Collaborations with Educational Institutions

We forged partnerships with universities and colleges offering courses related to deaf education and communication. Our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) representatives in school boards played an active role in advocating for deaf and hard-of-hearing children in schools. We also hosted webinars for families, facilitating their engagement and learning.

Expanding Deaf Awareness for Early Intervention

We launched targeted awareness campaigns for parents and caregivers, emphasizing the significance of early intervention for deaf babies. Collaborations with healthcare professionals and organizations aimed to improve the availability and quality of Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT) & Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) services for families with deaf infants. These efforts included informative notes in our newsletter, the Parent-Child Mother Goose program, the establishment of a new Instagram page, and several monthly meetings for parents and caregivers

Our Programs in 2022



Parent-Child Mother Goose Program: Enhancing parent-infant relationships through rhymes, songs, and stories.

This lovely program was initiated by Guita with the kind support of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program Foundation. It started with zero parents and went to 35 parents with deaf children under 4, from Ontario, all other Canada's provinces to the US. Each Thursday, the online program was run by Guita and Gail, through Zoom for one hour.



PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM

FOR PARENTS WITH DEAF/HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

There is nothing more important than your relationship with your child. The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® builds on this and gives parents the tools that make daily life with a young child more fulfilling. It promotes deaf children's language, well-being and achievement outcomes throughout later life; forming a strong foundation for life.





BENEFITS

CHILDREN:

- IMPROVEMENT IN LANGUAGE, PRE-LITERACY AND COGNITIVE SKILLS
 - GAIN SELF-ESTEEM
- DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS

Experience the power and pleasure of Rhymes, songs, stories, all chosen and offered in ways that work for you and your deaf/hard of hearing child

A place to learn, ask questions, meet other families with deaf/hard of hearing children

PARENTS AND CHILDREN:

- LEARN MANY RHYMES AND SONGS
 - STRENGTHEN THEIR
 BONDING

Every Thursday, 10-11 AM

Online on Zoom

earlyyears@voicefordeafkids.com

Facilitator: Guita Movallali

Tel: 6476578598

Understanding the significance of inclusive communication, the P-CMG program can be designed to offer two versions: one using American Sign Language (ASL) and the other oral (spoken language), following the traditional program format. This choice aims to accommodate the diverse communication modes employed by DHH children and their families.

To introduce this specialized program and ensure widespread access, a webinar was organized: P-CMGP for parents with DHH children across Ontario. This initiative involved collaborative efforts with the P-CMGP foundation, and connections with various organizations working for deaf children, including the Bob Rumball Excellence Centre for the Deaf.

The webinar featured presentations by Guita and Lynda Howes on the spoken language/traditional P-CMGP, alongside Sarah Colbeck and Mario Pizzacalla, experienced deaf teachers, who presented the ASL part. The success of this webinar surpassed expectations with participants joining from all over Canada.

Parent-Child Mother Goose Information Webinar

APRIL 13 2022

7:00PM-8:00PM WITH A QUESTION PERIOD

ZOOM

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84037360942?PWD=NVBHDGVUMXU2S01PZ0U4
MDKZZKLFUT09

MEETING ID: 840 3736 0942 PASSCODE: 222113

ASL INTERPRETERS PROVIDED

The Parent-Child Mother Goose can be offered in Spoken English or American Sign Language. It's a wonderful program that improves a child's language, attachment and bonding with their parents.









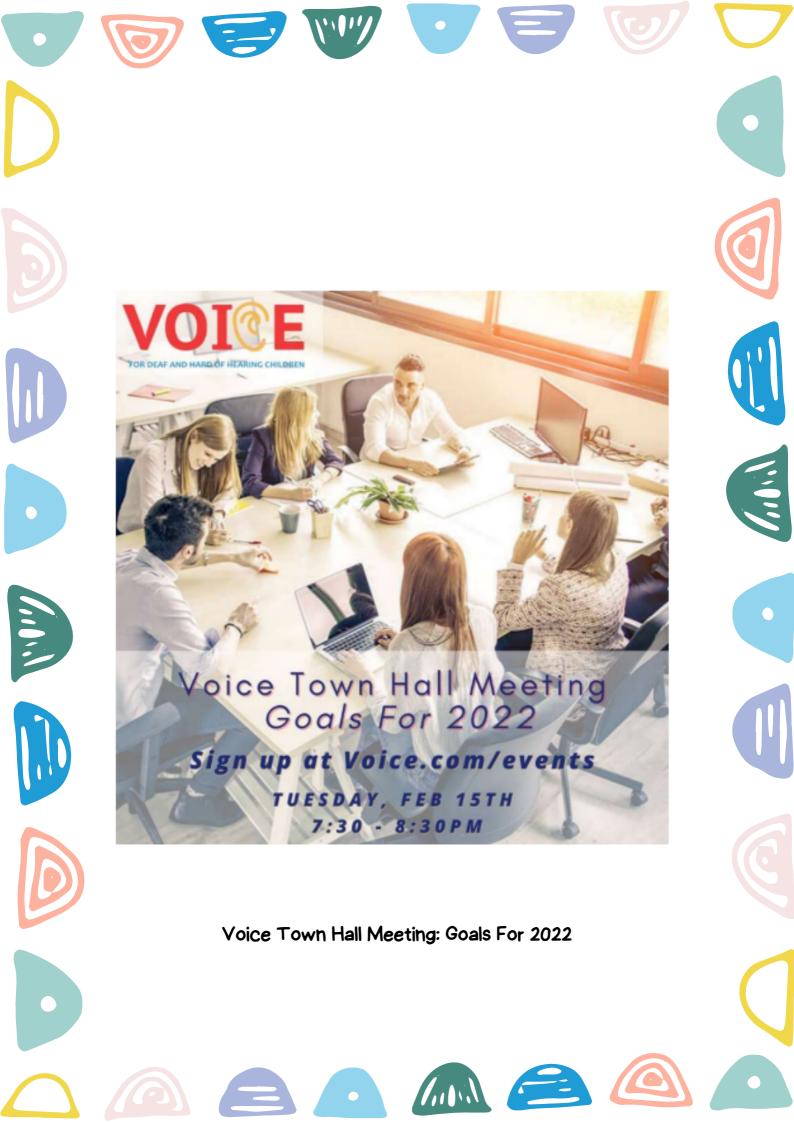
SEE WHICH ONE

IS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Highlights of Our Events in 2022



Voice Youth Mental Health Check-In





Voice TOP (Teen Outreach Program) Social Meet & Greet



World Hearing Day Webinar
On March, 3rd, the World Hearing Day,
we had a wonderful webinar presented by Karen.



(M)othering Professionals

Black Mother
Dis/engagement,
Advocacy and Agency

bit.ly/MotheringProfessionals January 19 7:00–8:30 pm EST







Jacqui Getfield, PhD Candidate
Department of Social Justice Education,
OISE/University of Toronto

(M)othering Professionals: Black Mother Dis/engagement, Advocacy, and Agency



Teen Movie





FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT AGE 13-18







SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2022

BLACK PANTHER II

YORKDALE CINEPLEX THEATRE 3401 DUFFERIN ST, TORONTO, ON M6A 2T9

COME JOIN DHH TEENS FOR A MOVIE NIGHT AND SOCIAL AFTER WITH OUR TEEN OUTREACH DIRECTOR ADRIENNE MILLER AND YOUNG DHH ADULTS. THE SHOW TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN RELEASED R.S.V.P NOVEMBER 5 2022 TO CHAIR@VOICEFORDEAFKIDS AND ONTHANDSANDVOICES@GMAIL.COM

TO REGISTER: https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/event-4958769



Annual CNE event

Thank you, Emily, for the beautiful chairs that you designed and for all your help with this event.





Parents Monthly Meet Ups

A family monthly Meet up series initiated by Guita, from October 2022. These sessions were virtual and an informal meet and greet session mainly for parents of recently diagnosed deaf children.







Voice Book Club: Launching



VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB



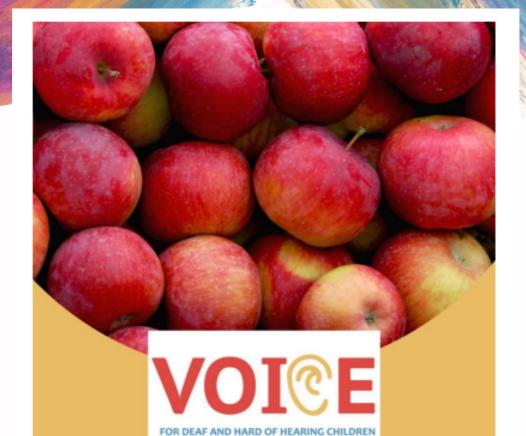
Wednesday Oct 5 2022 8PM

Come join us for our bi-monthly book club! This is our first book to kick off! We will offer virtual and in person book clubs in your chapter! Reach out to your local Voice Chapter to pick a date, location, time and date. If you don't have time to read don't worry! You can chat, socialize and have fun! Professionals, families and caregivers are all welcome to join!

To register: https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/event-4949334

- *CC PROVIDED I HOSTED VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
- *REQUESTS FOR AN INTERPRETER CAN BE SENT TO ADMIN@VOICEFORDEAFKIDS.COM
- *REQUESTS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO EVENT DATE

CHUDLEIGH'S APPLE FARM

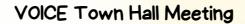


CHUDLEIGH'S APPLE FARM OCTOBER 2, 2022 2-5PM 9528 REGIONAL ROAD 25 HALTON HILLS, ON, L9T 2X7

We will meet up at the entrance at 2PM! We can't wait to see all of you to kick off the fall!R.S.V.P: Sept 16

Email: chair@voicefordeafkids.com for more information

https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/event-49 58564



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TOWN HALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SPEAKERS:



BRONWEN ALSOP



MARY KAY MCCOY Previous Chair of Board of Directors

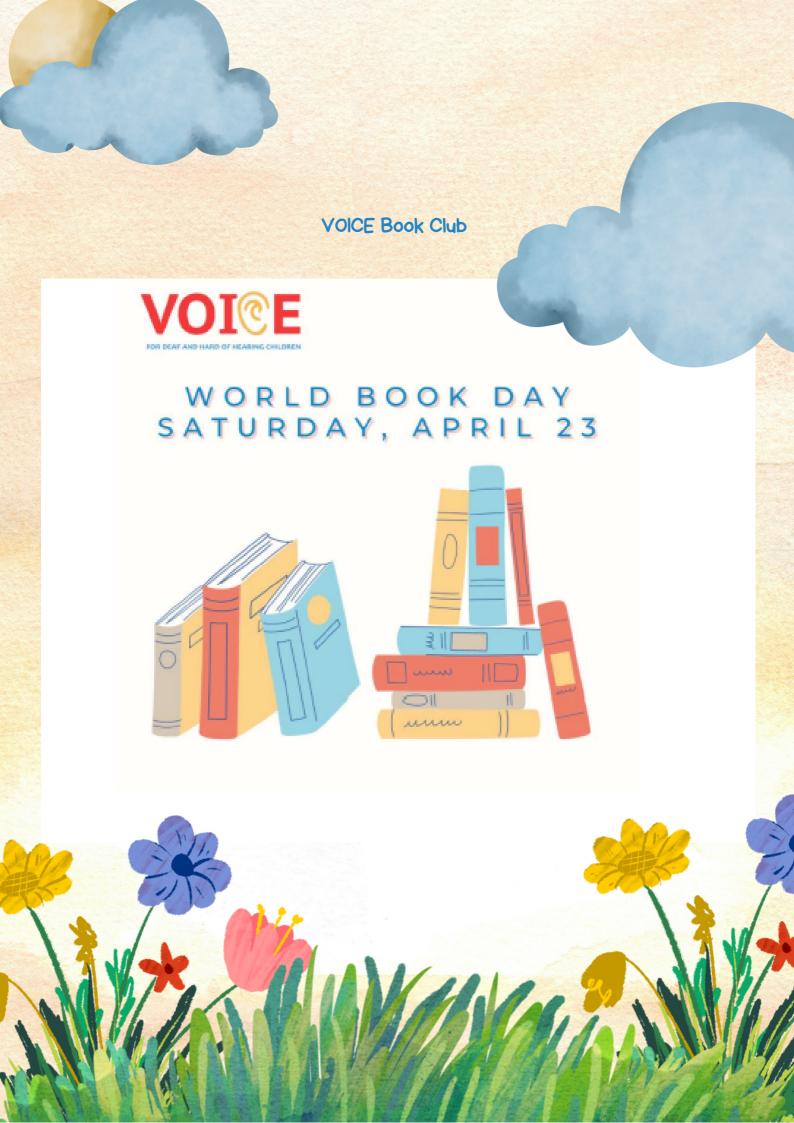


DOROTA SIMPSON



RHONDA QUESNEL Former Beard Member & SEAC Member

For Registration Visit: www.voicefordeafkids.com







FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDRE

Come join us to have fun, socialize and with DHH families at our monthly socials! We will order pizza, snacks and drinks. Bring socks. Our social meet ups will take place monthly! R.S.V.P Sept 23 2022 chair@voicefordeafkids.com

Playground Paradise September 30, 2022 5PM- 8PM

https://www.voicefordeafkids.com/event -4958655

> Flemingdon Community Centre 150 Grenoble Dr, North York, ON M3C 1E3

Our Annual Conference

The VOICE Conference in 2022 was a resounding success, featuring national and international speakers. Our dedicated Conference Committee (Guita & Karen) and conference organizer (Anna) with the kind support of Bronwen, our chair ensured a remarkable virtual event.



VOICE Monthly Newsletter

Our online newsletter provided monthly updates and resources for families and professionals supporting deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

Our Commitment to Early Years

VOICE's Early Years program remains committed to supporting parents with children who are deaf or hard of hearing aged 0-6 years.



Dress Loud Day

Our annual Dress Loud Day continued to raise awareness about hearing loss and educate schools and corporations about the challenges faced by children with hearing loss. We work tirelessly to inform the public about the needs and potential of these children. The event was mainly done by Shawna and Emily.





Find out how YOU can get involved! We are looking for participation from schools, daycares, teams, offices, community centres, and much more! Educational resources will be provided in order to incorporate into lesson plans and activities.

Find out more: admin@voicefordeafkids.com

Deaf Awareness Week: with a focus on deaf inclusion.

Dress Loud Day: May (Speech & Language Awareness Month)

New Instagram Platform:

Guita our early years director started a new page focused on early diagnosis and early intervention On Instagram. This is a supportive, informative page with helpful tips and content for families with deaf and hard of hearing babies and toddlers.



Our Team/Board of Directors:

Chair: Bronwen Alsop Vice Chair: (Vacant)

Secretary: Leanne Schira

Treasurer: Jonathan Samson

Early Years: Guita Movallali

Teen Outreach Program: Adrienne Miller

Listening and Spoken Language Consultant:

Karen MacIver-Lux

Community Service: Liz Sproule

Amarinder Mehta

Shawna Akerman

Tania Samson

Marie Casas

In conclusion, VOICE's endeavors in 2022 have brought us closer to realizing our vision of an inclusive world where all children with hearing loss can achieve their full potential in listening and spoken language. None of this would have been possible without the support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and dedicated team members. Together, we are creating a brighter future for children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing and their families.

Thank you for being a part of our journey