



You'll be hearing from üs!™

April 9, 2026



Child's Voice recently gathered alumni, families, staff, and other partners and friends to celebrate 30 years of helping children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn how to listen and talk. This event featured three graduates who spoke about their experiences as children with hearing loss, how attending Child's Voice helped them find their voices, and what they are doing now. We are thrilled to report that two are high school students -- one is in the Model UN, the other is a competitive skater – and the third is in college studying mining engineering.

“Because of Child's Voice, I know how to walk into a classroom, a competition, or a conversation and say, ‘This is what I need to succeed,’” said Tessa, Child's Voice class of 2015. “That's a skill I'll carry with me into college, my future career in medicine, and every challenge ahead.”

Since 1996, Child's Voice has collaborated with families to prepare young students to attend their local, mainstream school. Over our 30-year history, more than 230 students have graduated from Child's Voice and gone on to succeed in school, college, sports, and the workplace, and are also making a difference in their communities and the lives of others with hearing loss. The [REDACTED] Foundation has helped us achieve this milestone, and more importantly, have directly impacted the lives of students who will use their voices to make a better world.

We ask the [REDACTED] to consider a grant of \$20,000 to support children in the birth-age 3 age range and their families. This will position us to offer Early Intervention services to more families, including at-home and on-site rehabilitation sessions, speech therapy, and visits to our audiology clinic.

The Importance of Early Intervention

Child's Voice offers a wide range of programs and services, including Early Intervention for ages birth-3, a full-day School Program for ages 3-8, an on-site Audiology Clinic, and a speech clinic. Our students wear hearing-assistance devices such as hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Early Intervention is critical to a child's ability to hear and interpret sounds and speech patterns, acquire language, and develop cognitively, socially and emotionally. According to a physician-reviewed article by Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, “birth to age three is a key period for detection and intervention, marked by rapid brain growth and heightened neuroplasticity. With early use of hearing assistive technology and timely intervention...children with hearing loss can build strong neural pathways for listening and spoken language, leading to significantly better outcomes.”

During the 2024-2025 school year, we served more young children and families than ever. We helped 147 children gain access to sound and improve their speech and hearing and coached 296 adult caregivers on how to support these children on their hearing journey. Our audiologist also served about 75 more children through newborn hearing testing and school appointments. Currently we have 70 children receiving early intervention services through group therapy sessions held at Child's Voice in Wood Dale or through home-based services provided to children across the Chicago area.

Child's Voice works with families and school districts in seven Chicago-area counties and more than a dozen state and local early childhood organizations. About 20% of our early intervention students have a family income of \$40,000 or less, and our families speak 14 different languages at home.

Supporting Children and Families on Their Hearing Journey

Child's Voice is available to families from the moment of hearing loss diagnosis. Our EI specialists provide intensive support for children through speech and hearing rehabilitation therapies, helping them learn to listen and to speak through daily routines, interaction with family, and play.

Families also learn to advocate for their child in medical and educational situations. Child's Voice staff guides families in navigating the complex worlds of medical terms, insurance billing and working through Medicaid, and local school district special education procedures. Our on-site Audiology Clinic tests children for hearing loss and ensures that every child in EI can be tested frequently while attending group therapy. Additionally, our audiologist tests newborns who indicate potential hearing loss at birth, allowing children access to rehabilitation services as early as six months.

These services are often reimbursed at low rates, even though they are critical to each child's success. When Child's Voice absorbs the cost difference, we cannot serve as many children. With your help, we can close the gap between actual cost and reimbursement. We can enroll more families in rehabilitation programs, test more newborns for potential hearing loss, and provide speech therapy to more children in the community.

"Child's Voice didn't just prepare me academically or technically. They gave me something more powerful: the ability to advocate for myself. They taught me not just how to hear but how to be heard," said Tessa at our birthday celebration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this request. Please contact me at (630) 595-8200 if you have any questions, and please know the [REDACTED] is always welcome to tour our Wood Dale facility. With partners like you, our students and families will continue to experience success for the next 30 years.

Sincerely,



Wendy Deters
Executive Director