

## **EARLY IDENTIFICATION, INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO DEAF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Why is early identification of Deaf children and intervention important?

- It offers the best chance of language and communication abilities to Deaf children.
- Develop communication between parents and their Deaf children at home.
- Begin the development of a positive Deaf identity in Deaf children.
- Assist parents to make informed decisions and take positive action.
- Ensure that parents/caregivers understand the effects of deafness and have access to unbiased, accurate and up to date information.
- Sensitize hearing parents to the natural visual world in which their Deaf children are functioning.

Can DeafSA assist parents with Deaf children and how?

- Provide training to hearing parents/caregivers on communication and basic signing skills in order to approve communication with their children (0-7 years).
- Sensitize parents/caregivers on the needs of Deaf children and how to adjust to it.
- Refer children for hearing tests (audiograms).
- Assist with applications for school placements of Deaf children.
- Assist with grant applications.
- Provide information on South African Sign Language (SASL).
- Provide emotional support and counseling by social workers.
- Introduce parents to Deaf culture, Deaf role models as well as a world of opportunities for Deaf children.

Contact details of our Deaf social Auxiliary workers – Please contact between during working hours.

Charity Chikwambane Patricia Kgamane	Polokwane	Tel. (015) 2915248
Octavia Nyiadi	Witbank	Tel. (013) 656 1996/8
Judith Madi	Johannesburg	Tel. (011) 331 0057
Velaphi Mkize	Ekhuruleni - Thembisa	Tel (011) 331 0057
Gugu Mpapane	Nelspruit	Tel (013) 656 1996/8
Harry Setlogelo	De Aar	Tel. (053) 631 1086
Tina Cengeni	Kimberley	Tel, (053) 832 4453
Tshepo Maseko	Bloemfontein	Tel (051) 447 4707
Tefo Mabeleng	Upington	Tel. (054) 332 2605
Melanie Basson	Vredenburg	Tel. (022) 715 4939
Chantal Booysen	Beaufort West	Tel. (023) 415 2388
Vashni du Plessis	George	Tel (044) 873 5115
Yvette Hermans	Paarl	Tel. (021) 7801345
Nomfundo Sikondo	Mdantsane	Tel. (043) 761 4636

Contact details of our Social Workers – Please contact during working hours

Francis Prinsloo	National	Tel (021) 5515460
Monique Spencer	Newlands Cape Town	Tel (021) 6834665/6
John Sithole	Johannesburg	Tel (011) 331 0057
Nomvuyo Khomalo	Mdantsane (EC)	Tel (043) 761 4636
Mashudu Denga	Ekhuruleni	Tel (011) 331 0057

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