



# Deaf Children New Zealand | Tamariki Turi O Aotearoa

## Life Stages | Primary & Intermediate School

Choosing a school for your child where they will be happy and supported to have the best chance to learn is important to every parent.

Schools in New Zealand cannot turn away any child regardless of their additional needs. Schools are encouraged to be fully inclusive and to find the support, advice and guidance they need to provide for the educational needs of any child that walks through their gate.

Below are tips and resources suitable for parents with children at primary or intermediate schools.

### For teachers

The classroom teacher is a key person in your child's first year at school, go to our [Information Sheets page](#) on our website, to find the **For Teachers Information Sheet** there is a set of resources that will be useful to the primary classroom teacher and school.

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### Transition into school

Watch a video from the Parent Hui 2015 series about the move from early childhood education to primary school. In this video [Transition into School](#), Mark Douglas, Practice Leader for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Ministry of Education talks to families about what is required in terms of the needs of the child, the strengths of the child and what resources might be available, what the team around the child might look like and what are the good practices involved in a good transition into school.

- Go to the [Parent Hui 2015 playlist](#) on our youtube channel
- Go to the [Parent Hui 2015 in NZSL playlist](#) on our youtube channel

### Individual Education Plan (IEP)

An Individual Education Plan is a document that all schools with children with extra educational needs should have in place. The IEP sets goals for the child for the documented period (Normally 6 months, then the IEP should be reviewed again) and it sets strategies and working points for the professionals to ensure the child is able to meet these goals.

This document should be written before the child starts school, and must be written in consultation with all those involved in the child's education. As a parent, you are an integral part of your child's education, and your input into the IEP is essential. You have a unique and complete understanding of your child, and your wants and needs for your child's education must be addressed in the IEP.



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Your rights as a parent are...

- To be present at all IEP meetings. If you are unable to attend then it is up to the school to change it to a time when you can.
- To be actively involved in the IEP discussion and your goals to be written into the document.
- To have a support person with you at any and all meetings to ensure that you are heard.
- To be recognised as the primary source of information on your child.

If you feel that your rights are not being met, or that you have worries around the process of writing an IEP for your child, contact us and we can forward your information straight to a Ministry of Education liaison person.

IEPs are incredibly important, and the Deaf Children NZ and the Ministry of Education take them very seriously.

We have compiled some resources that may help give a little more information around Individual Education Plans and the processes involved.

### IEP tips for parents

This resource was written by NZ parents sharing their experiences and advice around IEPs.

Go to our [Information Sheets page](#) on our website, to find a copy of the IEP Tips for Parents Powerpoint presentation.

### IEP Survival Kit (Hands & Voices)

Please be aware that this IEP Survival Kit is written for American families, but many of the ideas and tips are relevant to us here in New Zealand.

<http://www.handsandvoices.org/articles/perfect/V12-3-IEPSurvkit.htm>

### IEP Online

IEP Online is on the TKI education website and has both information and some great stories from students around the IEP process and the importance of the Individual Education Plan for children with extra educational needs.

<http://seonline.tki.org.nz/IEP>

### Cochlear Implant School Toolkit

While this is a set of resources aimed at children with cochlear implants, many of the resources work for children with hearing aids. The kit provides information for parents, for teachers and for schools, along with printable resources and DVD's.

<http://www.cischooltoolkit.com/>

### NZSL@School Project

The purpose of the NZSL@School is to support schools so that deaf children, who need New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) achieve educationally and socially at the same level as their hearing peers. See the Download document below for more information.

Go to our [Information Sheets page](#) on our website, to find a copy of the NZSL@School Parent Information sheet - September 2015.



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### Recommended reading for your primary aged child

#### Will Wonder and his Robot Ears

A comic released by Medel, aimed at late primary school age through to intermediate boys.

Downloadable or [able to read online](#)

#### Mrs Wishy Washy - Interactive Story for iPad

The App Store has the Mrs Wishy Washy story for iPad with interactive characters suitable for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Children.

Search for Moo-O Plus on the App Store.

### Financial assistance from DCNZ

Each year DCNZ recognises the top achievers throughout New Zealand with **Excellence Awards** from Year 1 to Year 13. Anyone is welcome to nominate a child or young person.

DCNZ can provide assistance to subsidise the cost of:

- assistive technology for your child;
- private tutor for students studying towards NCEA;
- private Speech-Language Therapist; and
- NZ Sign Language classes for the whole family

Other opportunities include

- Advanced learning scholarships for two post-secondary students; and
- Grants for Individuals and Parent Groups

Go to the [Get Funding page](#) on our website for more details.

### Contact Us

By post at PO Box 13266, Johnsonville, Wellington 6440.

Email [info@deafchildren.org.nz](mailto:info@deafchildren.org.nz)

Call 0800 DEAFCHILD | (0800) 332 324

Text 027 214 6901

Go to [www.deafchildren.org.nz](http://www.deafchildren.org.nz)

Check out our [Facebook page](#)