



Shiven is cruising along at the Westchester Family Fun Day!

Our Mission:

Guide By Your Side provides unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who have a hearing loss.

Through the generosity of private grants, personal donations and funding through the Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program and CHOICES for Parents, Guide By Your Side is able to provide free services to families. Families can be referred to the program from providers or call directly to participate.

If you would like to refer a family, request brochures/posters or make a donation please contact the GBYS Program Coordinator, Carrie Balian.

Did you know?

We hold meetings for families called “Conference Calls for All” several times a year? These meetings allow families to dial in after the kids are in bed, connect with other families throughout the state, get updates about state events/resources and learn more from guest speakers? In January Tracy Meehan shared with families strategies for building vocabulary and developing language through play. We have two calls coming up. Please feel free to share this information with others!

Participants call: 1.877.402.9753 enter guest code: 7087114

- April 18 at 8:30 – Melissa Tumblin will speak with families who have children with atresia/microtia
- May 10th at 8:30 – Dawn Violetto will share and answer questions about FM systems

Family Fun Days Galore!

Beep, Beep!! Come on over – it’s time for fun! That was our theme this quarter! We held eleven Family Fun Days throughout the state in which over 100 families participated! Family Fun Days were held everywhere from a local McDonald’s to a Roller Rink! The Family Fun Days not only focused on connecting parents and children with hearing loss but it also allowed time for siblings to connect. In fact, at one of the locations a hearing sibling had spoken with one of the participants who had a hearing loss about the school they attended and was able to answer questions, give tips on teachers and so much more!

Program Information:

- 1 Program Coordinator
- 13 Parent Guides (PG)
 - Located throughout the state
 - Backgrounds vary in communication opportunities and amplification opportunities
 - 2 PGs who are native Spanish speakers
 - PG who is Deaf
 - PG who is Hard of Hearing



Stay up to date on events and resources by becoming a fan of Illinois Guide By Your Side!

Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from Oct – Dec 2010 and Jan – Mar 2011

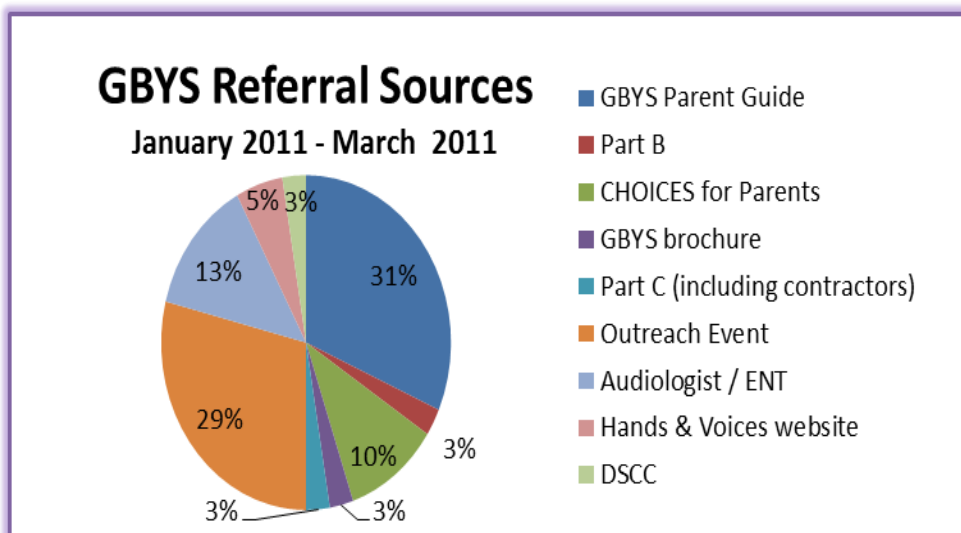
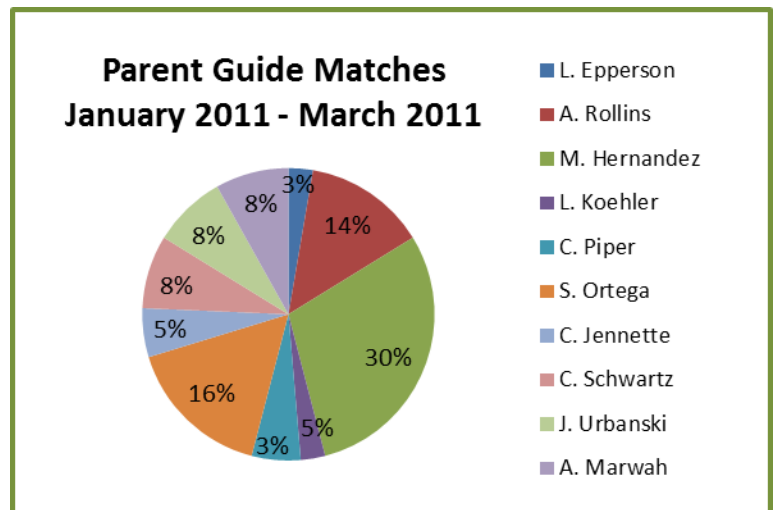
	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011
Birth-1 year old	38%	18%
1-2 years old	13%	11%
2-3 years old	18%	15%
3-6 years old	13%	13%
6 years and older	18%	43%



Quarter Reporting for Jan. 2011 – Mar 2011:

- Families referred 39, Families matched 37 (1 without confirmed diagnosis, 1 not interested)
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
 - 38% Latino (15 families)
 - 45% Caucasian (17 families)
 - 3% African American (1 family)
 - 3% Asian American (1 family)
 - 5% Multiracial (2 families)
 - 3% Pacific Islander (1 family)
 - 3% Polish (1 family)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 18% Birth-1 year old
 - 11% 1-2 years old
 - 15% 2-3 years old
 - 13% 3-6 years old
 - 43% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
 - English – 22 families
 - Spanish – 9 families
 - English & Spanish – 5 families
 - Other – 2 families
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
 - ALL Kids – 20 families
 - Private – 18 families
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
 - Did Not Pass – 20 children
 - Passed – 9 children
 - One pass/one DNP – 2 children
 - Not Screened – 7 children

- **Medical History** suggestive of:
 - Syndrome associated with a hearing loss – 4 children
 - No known syndrome or etiology – 27 children
 - Hearing loss and additional needs – 4 children
 - Hereditary – 3 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
 - Bilateral – 14 children
 - Unilateral – 2 children
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 22 male, 16 female



Guide By Your Side (GBYS) is a collaborative program of Illinois Hands & Voices, the Illinois Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program and CHOICES for Parents.



Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program