

Hanging around with friends!

Nothing beats a fun day hanging out with your peers! During the months of January and March our Parent Guides hosted Family Fun Days throughout Illinois. The purpose of these family fun days is to allow parents, their children with hearing loss and the siblings an opportunity to meet others who are on the same journey.

The family fun days are open to ALL families with children who have a hearing loss of all ages regardless if they participate in Guide By Your Side.

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, Illinois Hands & Voices 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? We have two calls coming up. Please feel free to share this information with others and join us on the call!

Participants call: (888) 494-4032

Enter guest code: 4231446909

- May 14th at 8:30pm will be all about Illinois Hands & Voices and open question time and sharing.
- July 9th at 8:30pm will be all about DSCC. Have you heard about the IL Division of Specialized Care for Children Program in IL? How can your families benefit from this program?

Thank you to the IL EHDI program for providing the toll free conference line for these calls!

Program Information:

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

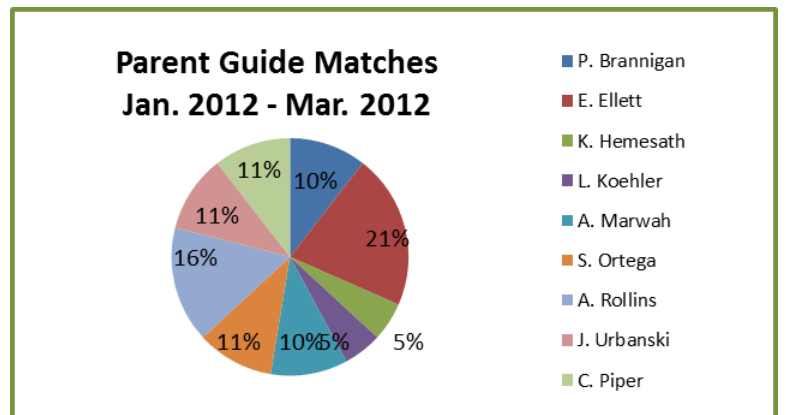
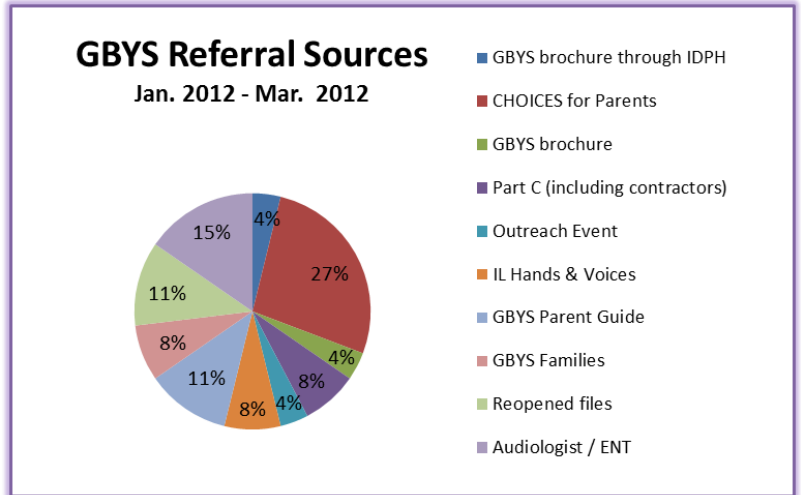
Comparison of ages of children enrolled in GBYS from Oct - Dec 2011 to Jan-Mar 2012

	Oct-Dec 2011	Jan-Mar 2012
Birth-1 year old	33%	21%
1-2 years old	25%	21%
2-3 years old	0%	21%
3-6 years old	17%	16%
6 years and older	25%	21%



Quarter Reporting for Jan. 2012 – Mar. 2012:

- 26 Families referred , 19 Families matched
- **Ethnicity** of the families referred:
 - 21% Latino (4 families)
 - 43% Caucasian (8 families)
 - 21% Multiracial (4 families)
 - 5% African American (1 family)
 - 5% Pacific Islander (1 family)
 - 5% Asian American (1 family)
- **Age** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 21% Birth-1 year old
 - 21% 1-2 years old
 - 21% 2-3 years old
 - 16% 3-6 years old
 - 21% 6 years and older
- **Primary Language** in the home:
 - English – 15 families
 - English/Spanish – 3 families
 - English/ASL – 1 family
- **Newborn Hearing Screening** results as reported by the parent:
 - Did Not Pass – 9 children
 - Passed – 8 children
 - Was Not Tested – 2 children
- **Medical History** suggestive of:
 - Condition associated with a hearing loss
 - 5 children
 - No known syndrome or etiology
 - 11 children
 - Hearing loss and additional needs
 - 3 children
- **Unilateral vs. Bilateral** hearing loss:
 - Bilateral – 18 children
 - Unilateral – 1 children
- **Gender** of children enrolled in GBYS:
 - 10 male, 9 female
- **Insurance** information of enrolled families:
 - ALL Kids – 7 families
 - Private – 12 families



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.



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

