



[This page prints out on 3 sheets]

Educators and Schools

Read this page to find out about the people who can help your child in school.

How to work with educators

- You know what's best for your child.
- Make your own decisions. Don't let teachers make them for you.
 - Some educators have strong ideas about the best way to teach deaf children. But you are the expert on your child.
- Learn all you can about deafness.
 - Read [books](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/resources/books.jsp) and articles about deafness (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/resources/books.jsp>)
 - Talk to parents of other deaf children.
 - [Get in touch](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/resources/index.jsp?section=1) with organizations for people with hearing loss (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/resources/index.jsp?section=1>)
- Know your child's rights.
 - There are laws saying that your child can go to school and get the help he needs.
 - In most cases, school and extra help are free.
- Tell educators your child has a hearing loss.
 - Some teachers have never taught a deaf child before.
 - Tell them how they can help your child learn.



The educators you may meet

When your child goes to school, you may meet many teachers and other people:

Early childhood special educator

An early childhood special educator is also called an **early intervention** specialist. This person helps families with babies who have disabilities.

What this person could do for you and your child:

- He teaches families how to help their children grow and learn.
- Read our [early intervention](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/ei/>) page to learn more about this kind of teacher.

Teacher of the deaf

A teacher of the deaf is trained to work with children with hearing loss:

- Teachers of the deaf know how deafness can make learning harder.
- Teachers of the deaf need a college degree.
They should also have a certificate to teach children with hearing loss.
- Teachers of the deaf can work in many different places:
 - People's homes or community centers.
Some teachers of the deaf do early intervention.
 - Schools for the deaf.
Most or all teachers in these schools are teachers of the deaf.
 - Public schools.
Your child may be placed in the resource room of a public school.
A resource room is a room set aside for students who are deaf or have other disabilities.
 - Several different schools. If only a few children with hearing loss live in your area, the teacher may travel from school to school.
These teachers are called itinerant teachers of the deaf.
- The teacher of the deaf works with the general education teacher.
She can help that teacher make changes to the classroom for your child.
- A teacher of the deaf also goes to your child's IEP meetings.
She may help write your child's IEP.

What a teacher of the deaf may teach your child:

- Reading and writing.
- Listening skills.
- Regular subjects like Science and Math.
- Speech therapy
- Hearing therapy

General education teacher

General education teachers teach children regular subjects, like Math or Science.

- They can work in private or public schools.
- These teachers should have a college degree and a license to teach.
- They may not have taught a child with hearing loss before.

Special education teacher

A special education teacher works with children with disabilities.

- They can work in both public and private schools.
- They need at least a college degree and a license.
 - In many states, special education teachers need a master's degree in special education.
- They teach children in a resource room.
- They may go to your child's IEP meeting.
- They may help write your child's IEP.

What a special education teacher may teach your child:

- General subjects, like History and English.
- Life skills, like crossing the street or grocery shopping.
- Good and bad ways to act.

School principal

A school principal runs a school.

- They work in both private and public schools.
- Principals need at least a master's degree.
- They may go to IEP meetings.
- They may help write your child's IEP.

What a principal does:

- Set rules and standards for the schools
- Make sure teachers and staff are doing a good job
- Check how students are doing in class
- Hire teachers and staff
- Decide how how to spend money

School district representative

A school district representative speaks for the school district.

A school district is the area that a public school serves.

All the children who live in the school district can go to its public school.

What a school district representative does:

- Goes to your child's IEP meeting
- Helps write your child's IEP

This page was last edited on January 15, 2004.

You can find this page online at:

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/people/educators.jsp>