



### **Starting School**

Where your child goes to school will be your decision, as parents, at the end of the day but we strongly advise that you listen to the perspectives of school staff and any other professionals involved with your child to enable you to make a balanced decision that is in the best interests of your child. You will need to find out all the school options that are available and be open to all options by visiting different settings and speaking to staff, parents and current pupils. Key factors to bear in mind when making decisions about schools need to be the level of support the school can offer; their level of experience of helping children with hearing difficulties or willingness to learn and accept support from professionals involved; where your child will be able to access classroom activities at a level to suit their level of development; and, let's not forget, where does your child want to be? Where is s/he happiest and most comfortable?

Whether your child goes to a mainstream school or a special school, teachers and support staff will need to be aware of the general communication advice above; and, if your child wears hearing aids/implants, there will need to be a member of staff who is able to check these are working properly and troubleshoot if they are not.

Children may benefit from some additional support and, if they use signing (either instead of or as well as speech), they would benefit from someone in school with signing knowledge.

Most children with hearing difficulties should be able to access a mainstream school with support but this may not be the case for every child.

**Written for DisabledChild-India by: Jenny Hinton, Speech and Language Therapist**

**Date submitted: September, 2013**

**Date of renewal: September, 2014**