

DEAR PARENT/GUARDIANS:

My name is Jesse Wise, I am a Deaf person, I am a new member of the SOESD EI/ECSE/PDHH team. I am offering you my support and assistance. I work and collaborate with children and families with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child. Below, I'm sharing some information about services a DHH mentor provides.

A DHH mentor, guide, or role models are uniquely qualified to provide the child, parents, and professionals with a positive and hopeful perspective from the day-to-day, real life experiences as a DHH person living in an hearing world. Developing a relationship with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mentors/Role Models can have a profound positive impact for everyone; child, parent and professional. Having the opportunity to work with a DHH mentor provides valuable information. Having grown up through Early intervention, I as a DHH Mentor can share their experiences and present to the family a realistic perspective and practical information to help navigate the many decisions facing the new parents of a DHH child. By sharing stories, experiences and asking questions, the family may be able to take a step beyond that first moment of how to "talk to a Deaf or Hard of Hearing person." The DHH mentor can model effective and meaningful communication and build a relationship with the family, and support the relationship between the parent and child. What we desire for all families, hearing or not, is the ability for our children to form and maintain lifelong relationships. Initiating this connection, starts the family on the path of building relationships with their child in a way that they could have not foreseen prior to their child's hearing level identification.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to work with you to make your child's time with SOESD EI/ECSE/PDHH great! Thank you.



Mr. Jesse Wise, M.S., PPS  
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**JESSE WISE**

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**“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor and some style.”**

**- Maya Angelou -**