

What do I do next?

If you are a teacher of the deaf, then please think about whether any families that you work with are eligible and contact us to discuss further. Families will not be identified by name at this stage unless prior consent has been given.

If you are a parent, please talk to your teacher of the deaf, or talk to us directly. Our Family Liaison Officer will then arrange a visit to discuss the project in more detail.



What will be involved?

Families on the **REACH OUT** programme will typically have fortnightly sessions at our facilities in Bicester over a maximum three year period. Consideration may be given to assistance with travel expenses.

Reach Out Checklist

Do you, or the family of a child you know, have all of the following:

- a child with hearing loss highlighted by the Newborn Screening Programme
- who is under 3 years old
- with a moderate or greater hearing loss in the better ear
- and a family income less than £30k pa?

If so, and you'd like to know more, then please contact us by phone or email.

How do I find out more?

Whether you are interested in the **REACH OUT** programme or want to learn more about our equal start work as a whole, please contact us directly on.

Telephone: 01869 321492
E-mail: reachout@avuk.org

REACH OUT...



for an equal start.

An exciting project for families of children with hearing impairment.

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REACH OUT - giving deaf children an equal start



Auditory Verbal^{UK} is a registered charity that works with hearing impaired children and their families towards the goal of developing listening and talking as equals alongside their hearing peers. Achieving this equal start is vital for long-term educational outcomes.

Many of the children we work with close the language gap with their hearing peers long before they start school. Closing this gap as rapidly as possible in the early years is a crucial first step to equal participation in mainstream education.

Our REACH OUT programme

Our equal start work has been boosted by charitable trust funding that has given us the opportunity to offer places to families who, because of financial barriers, would not otherwise have the chance to participate. Normally places are either funded by parents themselves or by Local Authorities through a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs.

The new trust funding gives Auditory Verbal^{UK} the opportunity to provide a small number of 'no-fee places' for low income families.

The charitable funding for this **REACH OUT** programme is not intended to displace funding that the family might otherwise receive for the provision.



Which families can join?

To be eligible for places on the **REACH OUT** programme, families must either have joint household income of no more than £30,000 or receive income support. We will require proof of eligibility at the initial appointment. All information is kept strictly confidential. They will have a child with a moderate or greater hearing loss, aged 3 years or under, whose loss was highlighted by new-born screening.



What about local services?

Participation is designed to be in addition and complementary to support from local services. Indeed, Auditory Verbal^{UK} believes strongly in close working partnerships with parents and their support services, and the local team will be involved at all stages of the project.