

The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) ASDC was founded in 1967 as a parent-helping-parent organization. Today, ASDC is a national, independent non-profit organization whose purpose is providing support, encouragement, and information to families raising children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

ASDC recognizes the crucial role families play in the success of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We affirm that families are capable and willing to guide their children's lives. Parents have the right and responsibility to participate in decisions regarding their children's educational and social development. ASDC supplies the information and support families request to ensure that their decisions and actions are based on up-to-date and accurate knowledge.

ASDC provides families and professionals:

- A quarterly magazine, *The Endeavor*, with focus on issues of importance to families. Topics such as special family members, transition, and Deaf Culture have been recent themes. *The Endeavor* includes regular reports of ASDC's activities, editorials, national news, calendars of upcoming events, stories of family experiences, advertisements for specialized products and services and news from ASDC affiliates.
- Biennial conferences which bring together families of diverse backgrounds to meet, learn and share information. The ASDC Biennial Conference provides families with five days of information and fun. Evening events bring families together, providing the opportunity to form new friendships and peer support. Alliances built and information gathered make this conference a once in a lifetime experiences for families across the nation. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference will be held June 22 – 26, 2011 in Frederick, Maryland. Featuring Parent Choices: key to Your Child's Future.
- A website, [www.deafchildren.org](http://www.deafchildren.org) with important information, articles, resources and links.
- Information to policymakers. ASDC is seen as a resource by members of Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and other Federal agencies. ASDC has testified before Congress, submitted written comments on proposed policy, and has participated in forms and workshops as invited guests and speakers.
- A monthly email blast that keeps members informed about happenings around the country.
- Periodic mailings on topics of interest such as conference announcements and resource findings.
- And an 800 line for parents and professionals to contact us with questions or comments.
- First Year Free membership to any family who has a deaf or hard of hearing child.

For more information about ASDC, please visit our website at [www.deafchildren.org](http://www.deafchildren.org) or contact Cheri Dowling at 1-800-942-2732.