The Importance of Parent to Parent Connection
An Interview with Connie Stevens

I think that parent to parent connection at the point of being told that your baby needs follow-up re-screening for their hearing is important because some families don’t understand the screening process that takes place in the hospital or with their midwife. They might have questions, not only about the screening equipment that was used and what those results mean, but they’re nervous about how to get to, where to go and find resources for that follow-up appointment, if they are going to be able to afford it or whose going to pay for that. They don’t want to sometimes talk to medical professionals about certain issues of not wanting to accept the news that there might be a hearing loss or assuming that there is a hearing loss just because they did not pass that initial hearing screen. So a Parent Guide’s are trying to address those types of issues that come up with families and we get them connected to area resources as well. So I think parent to parent connections as soon as possible is very beneficial.

I have a daughter who is now twelve and is profoundly deaf. We found that out through being involved with Birth to 3. We were involved with Birth to 3 because of her diagnosis of Downs Syndrome right away. So we were hooked into Birth to 3 soon after her birth and got connected to other parents right away initially through that connection. And it was just important to know that you weren’t alone, that your older hearing kids had other…there were other people out there that were going through the same thing, and it’s just good to know that there was someone you could call any time of the day.