As a North Carolina House Representative from 1976-2002, Ruth Easterling dedicated her energy to supporting children’s rights. In 2003, in honor of Ruth Easterling, the North Carolina House of Representatives set aside money to perpetuate her efforts.

The North Carolina General Assembly established the Ruth M. Easterling Trust Fund in an effort to fund services for children with special needs. A portion of this funding was used to develop the libraries to benefit children with hearing loss, their families and professionals.

The libraries are located at the Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing Regional Centers, which are listed on the insert provided. Please contact the center serving your county for assistance.
The Resource Libraries offer:

- Books, videos and software for children, including videos in sign language and also with sign language “captioning.”

- Books, videos and software for learning sign language and cued speech.

- Books on Individualized Education Plans, parenting a deaf or hard of hearing child, baby signs, cochlear implants, hearing aids, legal rights and much more!

- American Sign Language, Signed English, Signed Exact English dictionaries and games.

- Fiction and non-fiction books and videos with deaf and hard of hearing characters and actors.

- Flashing/vibrating alarm clocks.

- Assistive Listening Devices (ALD’s) including FM systems and PockeTalkers.

- Baby Cry Signalers to alert parents with hearing loss when their baby is crying.

Communication

Each library has information on the different communication modalities:

- American Sign Language
- Auditory-Verbal
- Cued Speech
- Oral (speech, lip-reading)
- Signed English
- Total Communication

Education

Each library has information relating to education, such as:

- Educational Opportunities
- Technology for the classroom
- Information relating to the Individualized Education Plan process