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# Parents, ACT!

— Empowering Parents to Build  
Language at Home —

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*By Harmony Jarratt*

## About Harmony

- Elementary Educator, Olathe, 10 years
- Mom of Deaf son, Canaan, 3 years
- Parent Rep, EHDI Advisory Committee, 1 year
- Supporting You Support Peer
- Para Sub for Kansas School for the Deaf
- Seeking Deaf Ed Certification for Career
- Passionate!



## Parents, ACT...

Family engagement is a key factor in achieving successful language and communication outcomes for children with hearing loss. Families must **ACT!** Although there are many resources and services available to parents and caregivers, these families are often overwhelmed by the learning and decision making required at the onset of a diagnosis. It is crucial that parents not only take advantage of support services and resources, but also that they assume an active role in their child's language acquisition and development. It is **not just up to the professionals** in the field; it is **essential that parents take responsibility** to make their child's language acquisition and development a major, daily priority.

Parents and caregivers should understand there are many beneficial practices that can be seamlessly **weaved into daily living**. Simple strategies can be used that encourage children to practice and play with speech and/or sign in ways that promote language development in a **meaningful way**. **Intentionally integrating a few** key practices during play, reading, and all other activities can have enormous benefits, creating an effective communication culture in the home. Also, **understanding a few key elements of speech** such as: stress, tone, duration, pitch, loudness, rhythm and intonation, can empower parents to promote their child's speech language skills during **every interaction**. These practices can **become a natural** part of daily communication in the home.

**My goal is to empower parents to "ACT"...**

## Today's 3 Takeaways

Accept Assistance  
Create Communication Culture  
Teach Talk

*Parents must ACTively participate!*

## Accept Assistance



Maximize the impact of available resources and support services available to families of children with hearing loss.

## Accept Assistance

- Starts with **YOU**
  - Search, Learn, and ASK!
- Say **YES**
  - Prioritize this for Now (0-5 years)
- Implement Coaching
  - AVT, Speech Therapy, ASL Lessons, etc.
  - Not the professionals' jobs to parent for you - follow through!
- Use your **FREE** Resources
  - See List



## Resources...all FREE!

- EHDI in Your State - [Sound Beginnings \(KS\)](#)
- Infant Toddler Services
- [Hands and Voices](#)
- Audio Verbal Therapy (AVT) at Children's Mercy or Midwest Ear
- The Whole Person
- KSD Community and Events
- KSD's PATHS Group...Other Parents!!!!!!
- KSD's Deaf Mentor Program
- Cochlear's [Sound Foundations for Babies](#)
- Advanced Bionics's *Baby Beats*
- Other Apps: Cochlear Device App, *Spread the Sign*
- YouTube: *ASL Nook*, *ASL Rochelle*, [KIDSTV123](#) (Songs for EC Skills)

## Create Communication Culture

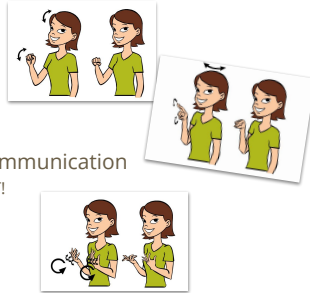


Identify simple strategies for promoting language development during reading, play, and home routines.

## Create Communication Culture

### Sign Language

- BEFORE DEVICES: **must** provide access to communication
  - Also, consider use of **some** sign - YOU WILL NEED IT!
    - Waking up
    - Bath time
    - Bed time
    - Behavior management
- AFTER DEVICES: add spoken word **with** sign - SIMPLE!
  - Research shows sign language is not detrimental to spoken language acquisition
  - Lots of Research on benefits of being bilingual
  - Develop a strong foundation in one language to develop the second



## Create Communication Culture

### Face Time

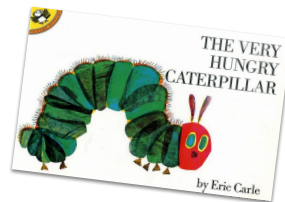
- Specialists recommend 8-10 hours daily
  - ASK FOR HELP!
    - Extra adult support needed, take breaks
    - Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, etc.
    - Inform babysitters and daycares
- Encourage others to take initiative
  - Daily list of tasks posted
  - Speech Therapy/ AVT focused practice items posted
  - ASL sign or skill of the week posted



## Create Communication Culture

### Sign and/or Sing Constantly

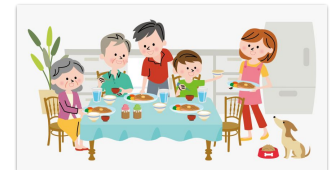
- Sign
  - Songs - *Old MacDonald* (animals)
  - Books - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (fruit)
  - Laundry - Colors & Clothing
- Sing
  - Diaper Changes - *ABC's*
  - Clean Up - *Barney's Clean Up Song*
  - Getting in the Car, etc. - *Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush* - "This is the way we..."



## Create Communication Culture

### Prioritize Family Meal Times

- At the Table
  - Proximity (dB), within 3 feet or "Yardstick" rule
  - Face to Face
  - Conversation turn-taking
  - Take your time
- Avoid Restaurants
  - Noisy, Busy, Overwhelming
  - Not best conversation environment



## Create Communication Culture

Daily Habits...Yes, Daily!

- Play-by-play **All Day**
- Speak "Motherese"
- ABC's with Signs and Sounds
- **Ling's** Sounds with Animals/Visual Cue, then without
- Consistent Sound-Object Associations

Remember...

- Follow Your Child's Lead!
- **Reinforce and celebrate** the Child's attempts at language use



## Teach Talk



Identify and practice key elements of speech to use in daily home living to promote speech language acquisition and development.

## Teach Talk

Understand...

- Yardstick Proximity
  - Proximity (dB), within 3 feet is best
  - Dinner Table v. Playing in the Backyard
  - Speech & listening skills in a room with 1 adult v. speech & listening in a noisy classroom
- Wait Time
  - Encourages expressive language
  - Be patient while child processes
- Suprasegmentals
  - Pitch, Duration, Stress, Loudness, Rhythm, Intonation, Tone



## Canaan Reading Corduroy

Notice...

Pitch, Intonation,  
Loudness, Duration

Age: 2 years, 6 months

Hearing Age: 1 year, 9 months

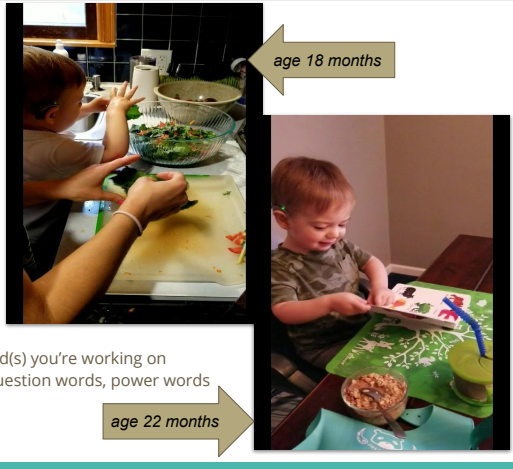
Approx hearing age is -9 months



## Teach Talk

Use...

- Books
  - Read, read, read!
  - Books with flaps/post-its
  - Books with questions
- Acoustic Highlighting
  - Highlight word(s) or sound(s) you're working on
  - Example: prepositions, question words, power words

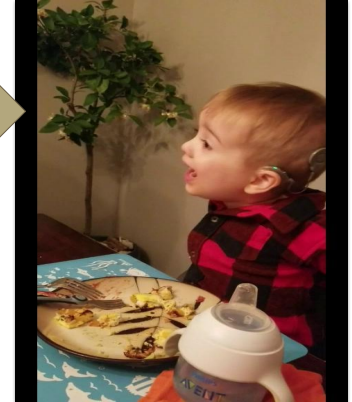


## Teach Talk

Teach...

- Power Words
  - O-pen...Clooose!
  - Up, Up, Up!...Dooooown!
  - Help
  - Names!
- Nursery Rhymes & Songs With Motions
  - Fun, Repetitive, Rhythmic, Encourage Sign
  - Mary Had A Little Lamb; Row, Row, Row, Your Boat; Old MacDonald

age 21 months



Today's 3 Takeaways

Acept Assistance  
Create Communication Culture  
Teach Talk

*Parents must ACTively participate!*

90%

over 90% of deaf children...born to hearing parents

*But, they are not alone!*

## Parents are the Key

naturally integrate  
language development into  
daily, family life



## Sources

Special Thank You's  
Erin Schwelger, ITS  
Katie Kincaid, Audiologist  
Robert Cullen, Surgeon  
Ashley Armitage, AVT  
Chriz Daly, Deaf Mentor  
Caleb & Canaan Jarratt

### Images

[https://www.teachersprintables.net/preview/Sign\\_Language](https://www.teachersprintables.net/preview/Sign_Language)

<https://ya-webdesign.com/explore/resources-clipart-format-mia/>

<https://www.babysignlanguage.com>

<https://www.mykidstime.com/things-to-do/new-very-hungry-caterpillar-books-arriving-to-peel-at-rate-50-years/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Can-Animals-Everywhere-Animal-Friends/dp/B002VER3T0>



## Questions?

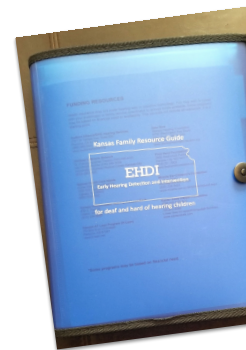
Contact me...

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Thank you!

## EHDI KS Sound Beginnings [www.soundbeginnings.org](http://www.soundbeginnings.org)



### WEBSITE RESOURCES

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	<a href="http://www.agbell.org">www.agbell.org</a>
American Society for Deaf Children	<a href="http://www.deafchildren.org">www.deafchildren.org</a>
Beginnings for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	<a href="http://www.rcbcpn.org">www.rcbcpn.org</a>
Borg Treen National Research Hospital for Baby's Hearing	<a href="http://www.babyhearing.org">www.babyhearing.org</a>
Deaf Digest	<a href="http://www.deafdigest.org">www.deafdigest.org</a>
The Deaf Resource Library	<a href="http://www.deaflibrary.org">www.deaflibrary.org</a>
Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI)	<a href="http://www.ehdi.gov/ehdi/ehdi-hearing-loss-and-data.html">http://www.ehdi.gov/ehdi/ehdi-hearing-loss-and-data.html</a>
Gallaudet University	<a href="http://www.gallaudet.edu">www.gallaudet.edu</a>
Hands and Voices	<a href="http://www.handsandvoices.org">www.handsandvoices.org</a>
Hearing Health Magazine	<a href="http://www.hearinghealthmag.com">www.hearinghealthmag.com</a>
Hearing First/Powering Potential	<a href="http://www.hearingfirst.org">www.hearingfirst.org</a>
Hearing Loss Association of America	<a href="http://www.hearingloss.org">www.hearingloss.org</a>
Holly Kids Hear	<a href="http://www.hollykidshear.org">www.hollykidshear.org</a>
John Tracy Clinic	<a href="http://www.jtc.org">www.jtc.org</a>
National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)	<a href="http://www.nfahbhearing.org">www.nfahbhearing.org</a>
National Association of the Deaf (NAD)	<a href="http://www.nad.org">www.nad.org</a>
Raising Deaf Kids	<a href="http://www.raisingdeafkids.org">www.raisingdeafkids.org</a>

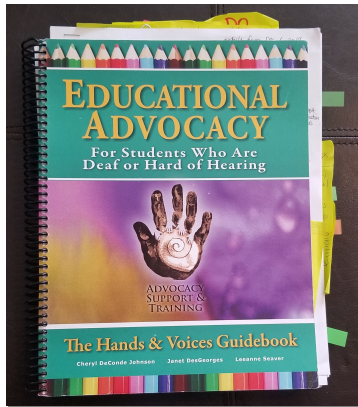
### AGENCIES THAT MAY PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Adoptive Women's Foundation	Quebec International/We Share Foundation 2022 10th St. SW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 517-1818 <a href="http://www.adopt.org">www.adopt.org</a>
Arise International	Arise International One Energy Center 1000 American Avenue Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 890-3000 <a href="http://www.arise.org">www.arise.org</a>
Autism International	Autism International 2022 10th St. SW Arlington, VA 22202 (703) 519-8200 <a href="http://www.autism.org">www.autism.org</a>
United Healthcare Children's Foundation	United Healthcare Children's Foundation 400 Bell St. Baltimore, MD 21202 (800) 698-0022 <a href="http://www.uhc.org">www.uhc.org</a>
Children's Charity Fund	Children's Charity Fund 3002 Southern Blvd. Suite 11 San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 543-0100 <a href="http://www.childrenscharity.org">www.childrenscharity.org</a>

Agencies in your community or you may be referred to a local

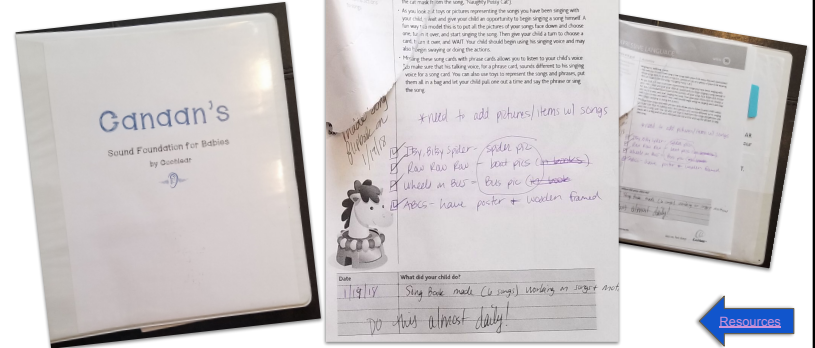
Resources

Hands & Voices  
handsandvoices.org



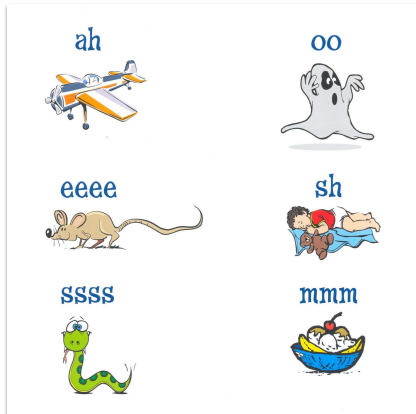
← Resources

Cochlear's  
Sound Foundations for Babies



← Resources

Ling's Sounds



← Daily