



HANDS &
VOICES™

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

IN LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNICATION
&
LANGUAGE
MAKES
THE
WORLD
GO
ROUND



A parent's story...

Fears:

The unknown impact on language and literacy

Ability to communicate

- talk/sign

Sense of self

Ability to develop friendships

Can I do this?

All the decisions:

- Language/communication options
- Technology
- Schools



Hands & Voices
Family Leadership in Language and Learning
“FL3”



Program Goal: Ensure that statewide EHDI systems incorporate certain elements that support the families, parents, and caregivers of deaf or hard of hearing infants and children in optimizing language, literacy, social-emotional development.



Current Research & Data

- Have you ever wondered how a hearing aid is giving support to your infant? (even before they can tell you how it is working/helping)
- Do you understand the implications of how much you speak to your child every day and its impact on language development for your child who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing?
- Do you know how to use the assessments that your Early Intervention Provider uses to track your child's progress can be used to help your decision making in communication and language outcomes?
- What does the field know about the use of utilizing visual sign systems to develop language and literacy in young children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing?
- Do you know how to respond when someone uses 'research findings' to support their own bias about how they think you should raise your child who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing?




These are some of the questions being answered by researchers in today's world, and are included in information contained here and/or links to other sites. This page will help you to think about research from a parent's perspective, and to help you as a parent understand why research is important, how to navigate and use information from this website, and to help inform you of how clinical practice is molded and shaped based on research.

How can parents use research findings to understand the needs of Deaf/Hard of Hearing children? What should a parent do when somebody uses 'research' to support a particular decision? Should research findings be the only thing a parent considers in language and communication choices?

FL3 Parent-Takeaways

- Cognitive Development
- Early Literacy Development
- Language Development
 - *Semantics*
 - *Syntax and Morphology*
 - *Phonology*
 - *Child Pragmatics*
- Visual Language Development
- Social Emotional Development
- See Parent Take-aways on the Hands & Voices website, <https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/fl3-docs/parent-take-aways.html>
- or take a deeper dive into the H&V FL3 Project in these areas here, <https://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/topics/lang-lit-soc.html> .



FL3 HANDS & VOICES



Parent Take-aways Social Emotional Development

A BABY'S EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS. THESE EARLY SKILLS INCLUDE:

- HOW YOUR BABY UNDERSTANDS AND EXPRESSES EMOTIONS;
- HOW YOUR BABY GROWS TO THINK ABOUT HIM OR HERSELF;
- HOW YOUR BABY LEARNS TO REGULATE EMOTIONS AND INTERACT WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN HIS OR HER ENVIRONMENT.

A confirmation that your child is deaf or hard of hearing within the first weeks of life can prompt many emotions, some of which may be challenging. This is a common experience among families. Sometimes, it can change the way you might normally have interacted with your baby. It is important to work through these feelings.

Continue to interact with your baby! Maintain focus on your emotional well-being, as this can impact the emotional well-being of your child. Being deaf or hard of hearing will not necessarily impact your child's social and emotional development, although it can. Having a child who is deaf or hard of hearing may change some things about how you interact and communicate with your child, however there are many ways to support your child's social-emotional development and well-being.



- ✓ Touch your baby lovingly and often (cuddle, comfort, massage).
- ✓ Sing to your baby.
- ✓ Engage in turn-taking games, such as pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo, tickle games, and making faces at one another.
- ✓ Build predictable routines.
- ✓ Respond to emotional states with understanding and calmness. Recognize your role in your child's well-being.
- ✓ Use language to describe your feelings and those of your child. Build a strong vocabulary of words/signs for emotions.
- ✓ Look for your child's pleasure in accomplishing new things and let him or her know that it brings you pleasure.
- ✓ Read stories and talk about the emotions of others.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children and observe how your child engages with others.
- ✓ Play with your baby as often as possible. Experience the joy of parenthood!
- ✓ Interact with diverse deaf and hard of hearing adults.

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COACHING MODEL WITH PARENTS

- Explore
- Provide Information
- Check-In

Language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing needs the attention and support of everyone involved with the child – it has a lifelong impact!

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www.handsandvoices.org



Thank you!