

Strategizing and Partnering with Venues in Providing Language Access and Social Opportunities for Families

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Presenter Disclosure

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Boston Children's Hospital
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Program

The Whole Child Approach

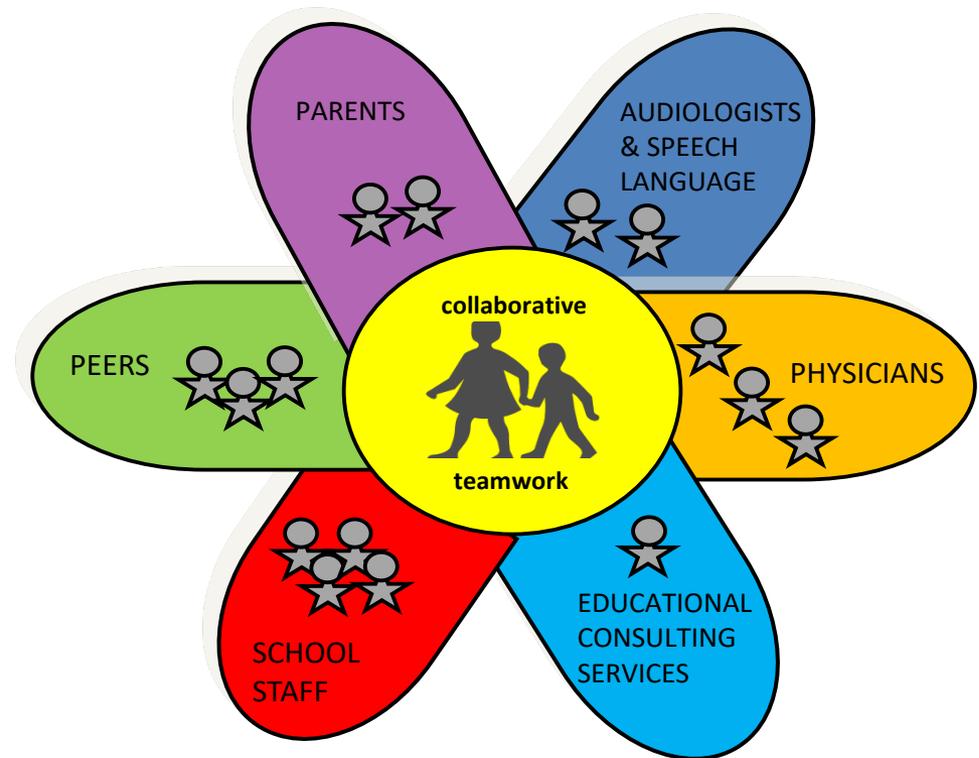
Our team at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program participates in care for more than 1,000 children and their families each year, including children and adolescents with known or previously diagnosed hearing loss.

We embrace a “whole child” approach:

- Respect all types and forms of communication
- Emphasis on full range of opportunities:
 - ✓ *Technology*
 - ✓ *Language*
 - ✓ *Schools & Educational programs*
- Present all perspectives
- Maintain a child-centered and family-focused approach

DHHP Outreach Program

- The DHHP Outreach and Support Services program is community-based and family-oriented.
- I oversee the program which provides a wide range of services to families, children, schools, educators and professionals.
- We advocate for children's well-being, education and opportunities for growth.



Funded through:



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Outreach beyond the clinical scope

Family-centered events

- *Family-centered outings to public venues*
- *Community Learning for Kids*

Collaborations, education and training

- *Staff development and training*
- *School evaluations and IEP recommendations*
- *Collaboration with early intervention programs and services*

This model encourages natural environments, deaf and hard of hearing role models, parent networking opportunities, and opportunities where the child can be a child.

Workshops

- *“An Early Evening with...” speaker series*
- *K-12 educational transition workshops*
- *Informative workshops related to clinical needs, outreach, and parental support*

Informative resources for families



The Importance of Language Access

- We see the word *language access* often but what does it truly mean in terms of access for a deaf or hard of hearing child?
 - Pictures
 - ASL interpreters
 - Language models
 - Print/text
 - Visual cues (facial expressions, speech reading cues)
 - Social prompts

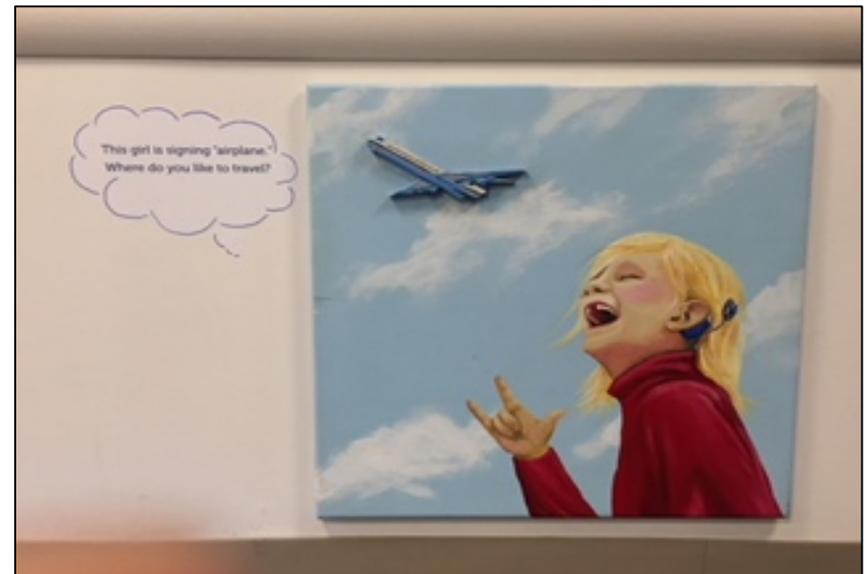
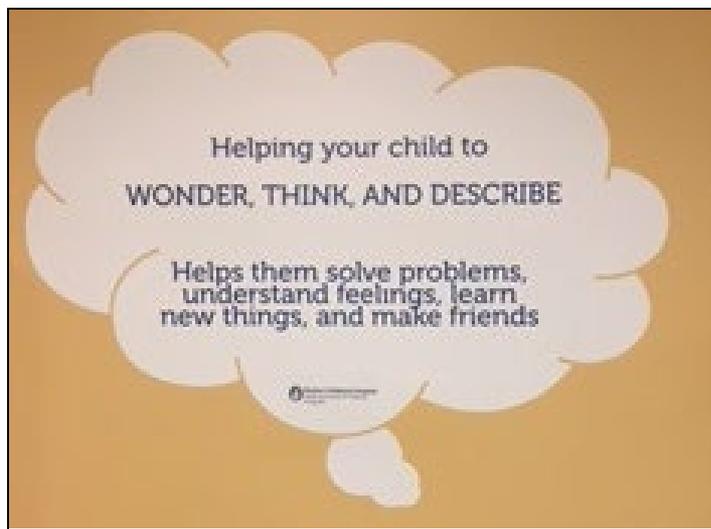


Language access ----> Social opportunities

- A baby or child's ability to use language to *wonder, think, describe* allows them to be engaging members of the community.
- Create opportunities for parents and D/HH children to interact in natural environments, along with other parents and D/HH children in the same place
- Creating these opportunities in the community is vital to the child's development

Wonder, Think, Describe

- *Wonder, Think, Describe* is led by multidisciplinary group of BCH staff members
- A project derived from Supermarket Speak and in collaboration with Boston Basics Campaign
- Parent-child interaction is critical in predicting successful language outcomes
- Activities in exam rooms (“Find it” on back of exam room doors)
- StoryTime in waiting rooms



How we create opportunities in the community through DHHP outreach program

- Host family-centered events for various ages and needs
- Create social opportunities for children regardless of communication modality
- Activities that encourage social skills, self-esteem, and sharing their experiences equally with their family member or friends as much as possible in social settings and educational settings
- Provide language rich experiences and exposure
- Natural settings – not technology driven

Venues we collaborate with



Museum of Fine Arts Boston



A screenshot of the Open Door Theater website. The header reads 'Open Door Theater Acton, Massachusetts'. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Current Show, Tickets, Show Synopsis, Character List, Production Team, Auditions, Thank You, Cast Information, Past Shows, About Us, Philosophy, History, Board of Directors, Getting Involved, Directions, and Contact Us. The main content area has a section titled 'Looking for a volunteer?' with a sub-header 'Peter Pan' and a graphic that says 'PETER PAN TAKING FLIGHT APRIL 1-10'. To the right is a section for 'SHREK THE MUSICAL' with a congratulatory message to the cast and crew.





Several years ago, Boston Children’s Hospital DHHP approached The Discovery Museum about hosting a free evening for deaf and hard of hearing children. The “idea” has grown into six free “Especially for Me!” events per year for deaf and hard of hearing children and families with approximately 100 in attendance every time. They also expanded to provide free EFM evenings for children with autism and for children with visual impairments

Interpreters are provided on-site

Cultural awareness and sign language lessons are provided from time to time

Over time, TDM started to connect with Deaf-related organizations to bring in language models and STEM-related activities for D/HH children

Visual activities and brain building conversation signs on-site





Museum of Fine Arts Boston

The DHHP outreach program hosts Community Learning for Kids at the MFA twice per year. The kids take a tour with a Deaf tour guide and do an art activity together afterwards.



The museum also offers:

- ASL Night at the MFA
- ASL Tours
- MFA Guides (touch screen players, text transcripts, neck loops)
- Interpreters for family vacation week and special events



Boston Children's Museum hosts monthly ASL interpreted shows, communication accessibility during school vacation week, and an annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Event in the summer in which I lead the Family Circle. The event draws a good size of families and young children.

BCM understands the Deaf community's needs, and engages with stakeholders in the Deaf community.

**Boston Children's Museum
ASL Interpreted Program**

Critter Day - Wingmaster

**Saturday, March 17,
2:30 pm and 3:30 pm**

This program is free with paid Museum admission.

Hawks and owls are amazing birds but this presentation will teach you about them while you have a chance to take a photo.

*For the safety of both humans and animals, this show is not recommended for children under 5 years old.

*Seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact:
Saki Iwamoto, Health and Wellness Educator
iwamoto@BostonChildrensMuseum.org
617-986-3697

308 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210 | 617-426-6500 | www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org

TELL ME A STORY

**Celebrating Children's Literacy
April Vacation Week**

ASL Interpreted Programs

- Charlie Numbers and the Man in the Moon Reads**
Wednesday April 18, 2018 at 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm
Listen to husband and wife author team, Ben and Tori Mierzich, read an excerpt from Charlie Numbers and the Man in the Moon. Charlie is recruited to use his mother's what happened to a box of stolen moon rocks in this follow up to Bringing Down the Moon in a STEM activity based on the book.
- Critter Day: Animal Adoption Stories**
Saturday April 21, 2018 at 10:30 am and 11:30 am
Celebrate children's literacy with friends furry to scaly. Join Matt from Animal World and his friends as they read and discuss the book. Learn where he found the members of his animal family and find out why they are so special.

These programs are free with paid Museum admission.

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**Join us at Boston Children's Museum for
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Family Event!**

- Date:** Saturday, June 30, 2018
- Admission:** You must pre-register to receive discount admission.
- Non-members:** \$8.50 per person (Half off regular admission price)
- Members:** Free
- Registration:** Please register through www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org/deaf-family-event

ASL Interpreted Programs

11 am: Magic show by Deaf magician, Steve Weiner.
There's nothing scary in Steve's show, but everything is geared towards comedy and fun tricks he has collected for the past 30+ years of his career!

12 pm: Family Circle
Bring your lunch and meet other families! There will be resources and a conversation facilitated by Katie McCarthy from Boston Children's Hospital's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program.

1:30 pm: KidStage show
How do you dance if you cannot hear the music? How do you dance if you cannot see? Is salsa and merengue a food or a dance? What is bachata? Come find out as Kerry Thompson, a Deafblind dancer and Director for Silent Rhythms Dance, teaches us to think about music and dance in a different way through performances and workshops.

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Prior to 2015's *Shrek: The Musical*:

For six years they promoted an ASL-interpreted night and only two deaf audience members showed

We met through The Discovery Museum and I attended their play "Working" in 2014. I advertised the ASL-interpreted night and 5 deaf and hard of hearing audience members showed

During and since *Shrek: the Musical* (including *Peter Pan*, *Cinderella*, *Little Mermaid*):

- We hold an audition workshop for interested Deaf and hard of hearing participants
- We provide ASL lessons - cast becomes comfortable with each other during rehearsal; less noticeable divisions
- Several Deaf people are cast in their performances every year
- Large number of deaf and hard of hearing audience members for the ASL-interpreted performances
- Open Door Theater received funds for open captioning and more ASL-interpreted performance slots, and won several awards and grants for being an accessible cultural organization in Massachusetts.

Peabody Essex Museum

The logo for the Peabody Essex Museum, featuring the letters P, E, and M in a white serif font, separated by vertical bars, all contained within a solid red square.

P|E|M

- The Peabody Essex Museum collaborated with the DHHP outreach program to receive staff training, cultural competency, ASL lessons, and to revise their current accessibility layout at their museum to meet D/HH consumers' needs better
- They invited Sunshine 2.0 to perform at their venue for the community. Kids and adults of all ages attended. Sunshine 2.0 provided an interactive workshop after their performance
- Kids got to meet deaf performers, learn different techniques and discuss their experience with their parents after

How to approach venues with opportunities to collaborate

- Collaborate about hosting events at their venue
- Spread the word to the greater deaf and hard of hearing community
- Give time or resources to help the venue take more initiative in being accessible in a variety of ways
- Staff training and consultation

Starting conversations with venues

- Identify ways they can make their venue more accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing community
- Start like-minded conversations about ways to grow their programs, become more diverse, and engage the D/HH community
- Once D/HH community knows that venue is D/HH friendly, they will attend more regularly.

- **Engage them with key words:** family engagement, inclusion, accessibility, diversity
- **Ask questions:** Are they familiar with other neighboring family-friendly venues or museums offering similar concepts to the D/HH community?

Have they done staff training, cultural competence or awareness, and/or provided assistive listening devices or visual access for visitors?

Are they interested in becoming more accessible?

How to find opportunities to cover the cost

- Start dialogue with the venue about the cost, once you've discussed the event or idea
- Check if the venue has a fund or grant that can cover the cost – maybe they're looking for ways to receive money from a foundation or spend money they already received for accessibility-related needs
- Admission fee for the particular event
- Keep doing it until it's sustainable on its own

When a seed grows...

- Creativity and dedication through the outreach position with ideas, projects, collaborations that keeps growing year after year
- Developing connections with the community
- We are seeing more families thrive and become more well-rounded and introduced to other families (D/HH adults and children) and know which places are already “deaf-friendly” for their children through our collaborations with different venues. That is our main goal.



Closing thought:

How can you strategize and/or partner with venues in your area to improve language access for Deaf/HoH children and social opportunities for families?

What can be provided within that venue?

Any specific barriers that may need to be addressed?