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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!



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# 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.

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# 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)

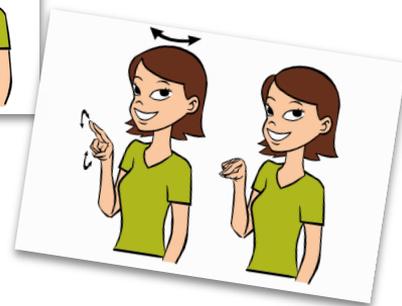
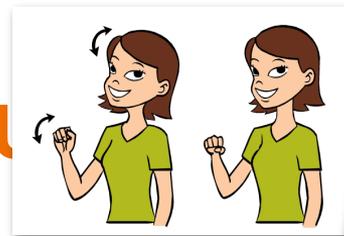
# Create CommunicatiCulture



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

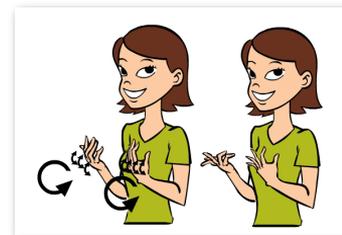
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# Create Communication Cu



## 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

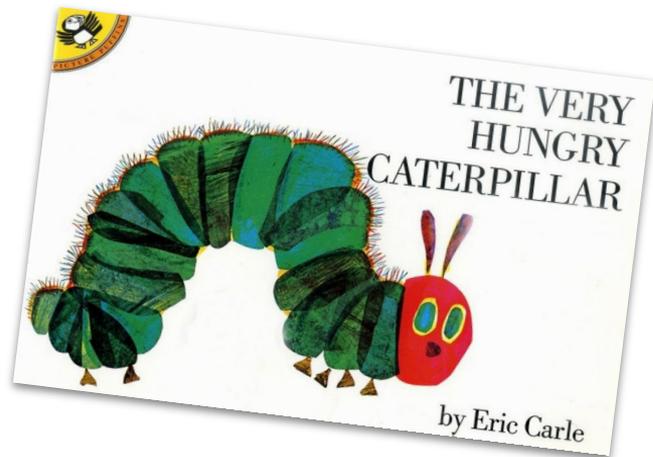
## Sign and/or Sing Constantly

- 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*  
Child’s attempts at language use



# TeachTalk



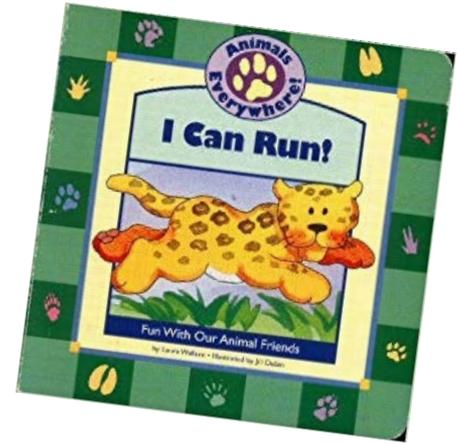
Identify and practice key elements of speech to use in daily home living to promote speech language acquisition and development.

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# 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 ~~by~~ *Dorduroy*

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



*age 18 months*



*age 22 months*

# Teach Talk

Teach...

*age 21 months*

- 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



# Today's 3 Takeaways

Accept Assistance

Create Communication Culture

Teach Talk

*Parents must ACTively participate!*

# Parents are the Key

naturally integrate  
language development into  
daily, family life



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# 90%

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

*But, they are not alone!*

# Sources

Special Thank Yous

Erin Schwelier, 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-mla/>

<https://www.babysignlanguage.com>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Can-Animals-Everywhere-Animal-Friends/dp/B002VER3TO>



# Questions?

Contact me...

Harmony Jarratt

caleb.harmony@gmail.com

# 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.ncbegin.org">www.ncbegin.org</a>
Boys Town National Research Hospital/ My 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.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-data.html">http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/ehdi-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>
Help Kids Hear	<a href="http://www.helpkidshear.org">www.helpkidshear.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.infanthearing.org">www.infanthearing.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>

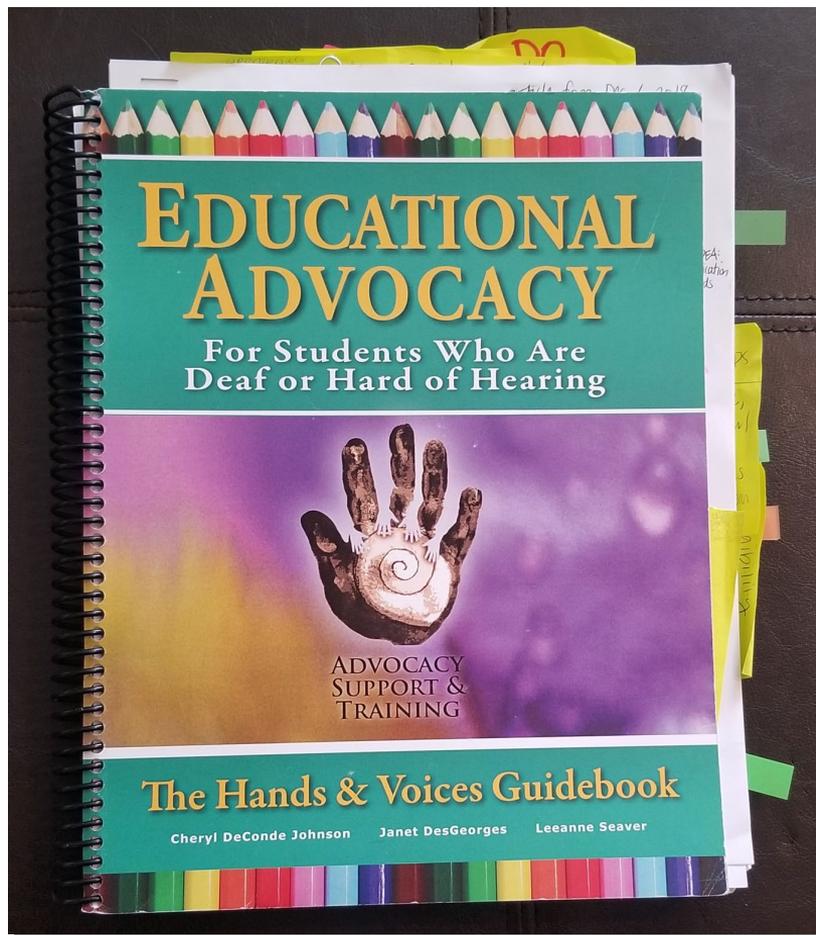
### ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Alzheimer's Association National Women's Foundation	<b>Quota International/We Share Foundation</b> 1420 21st St., NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 331-9694 <a href="http://www.quota.org">www.quota.org</a>
International Rotary International	<b>Rotary International</b> One Rotary Center 1560 Sherman Avenue Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 866-3000 <a href="http://www.rotary.org">www.rotary.org</a>
Sertoma International	<b>Sertoma International</b> 1912 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64132 (816) 333-8300 <a href="http://www.sertoma.org">www.sertoma.org</a>
United Healthcare Children's Foundation	<b>United Healthcare Children's Foundation</b> PO Box 41 Minneapolis MN 5540 (855) 698-4223 <a href="http://www.uhccf.org">www.uhccf.org</a>
Children's Charity Fund	<b>Children's Charity Fund</b> 6623 Superior Ave Suite B Sarasota FL 34231 (800) 643-5787/Civitan International <a href="http://www.civitan.org">www.civitan.org</a> email: <a href="mailto:civitan@civitan.org">civitan@civitan.org</a>

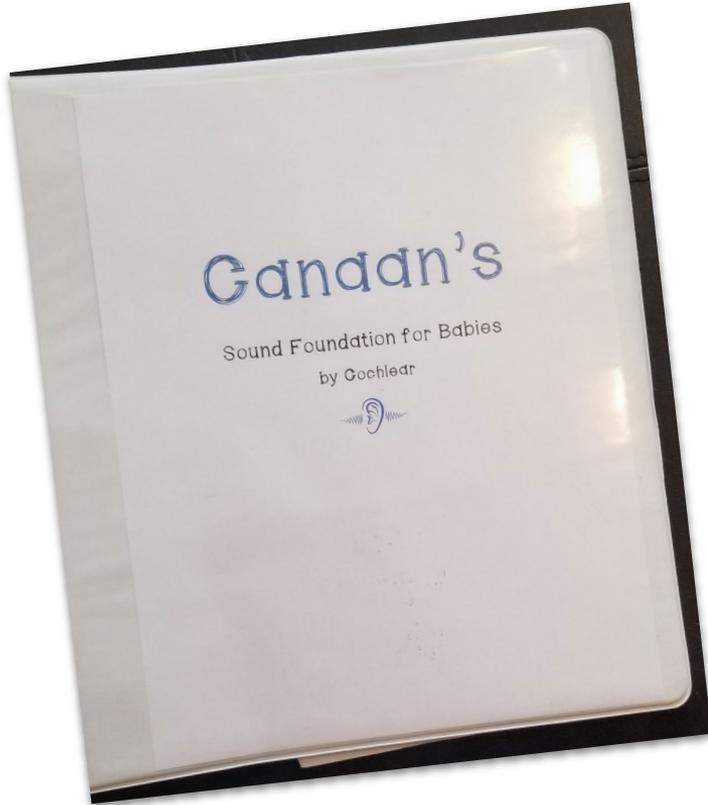
clubs in your community or you may be referred to a local

[Resources](#)

Hands & Voices  
handsandvoices.org

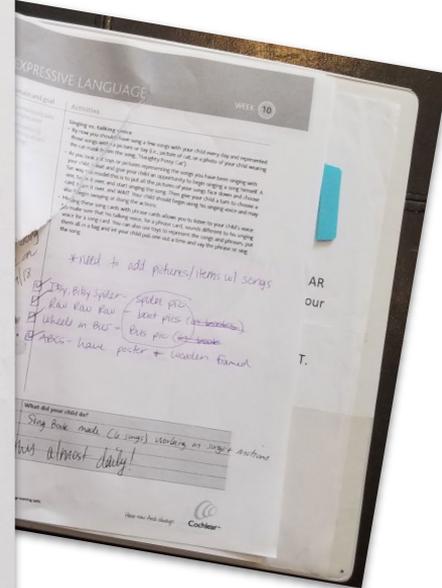


# Cochlear's Sound Foundations for Babies



EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE WEEK 10

Domain and goal	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spontaneously uses singing voice</li> <li>Spontaneously performs actions to songs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Singing vs. talking voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By now you should have sung a few songs with your child every day and represented those songs with a picture or toy (i.e., picture of cat, or a photo of your child wearing the cat mask from the song, 'Naughty Pussy Cat').</li> <li>As you look at toys or pictures representing the songs you have been singing with your child, wait and give your child an opportunity to begin singing a song himself. A fun way to model this is to put all the pictures of your songs face down and choose one, turn it over, and start singing the song. Then give your child a turn to choose a card, turn it over, and WAIT. Your child should begin using his singing voice and may also begin swaying or doing the actions.</li> <li>Mixing these song cards with phrase cards allows you to listen to your child's voice to make sure that his talking voice, for a phrase card, sounds different to his singing voice for a song card. You can also use toys to represent the songs and phrases, put them all in a bag and let your child pull one out a time and say the phrase or sing the song.</li> </ul> <p><i>Handwritten notes:</i> *need to add pictures/items w/ songs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iby, Biby Spider - spider pic</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raw Raw Raw - boat pic (<del>in books</del>)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wheels on BUS - Bus pic (<del>in book</del>)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ABCS - have poster + wooden framed</li> </ul> <p><i>Handwritten note:</i> *need to add pictures/items w/ songs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iby, Biby Spider - spider pic</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raw Raw Raw - boat pic (<del>in books</del>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wheels on BUS - Bus pic (<del>in book</del>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ABCS - have poster + wooden framed</p> <p>What did your child do? Sing Book made (6 songs) working on songs + notes almost daily!</p> <p>Date: 1/19/18</p>



# Ling's Sounds

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oo



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