



Fostering JOY in Families  
with Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

# The Joy Core Team

- **Amy Szarkowski**, *Psychologist*, LEND, Boston Children's Hospital; Harvard Medical School; Children's Center for Communication/Beverly School for the Deaf
- **Candace Lindow-Davies**, *Director of Outreach*, Hands & Voices HQ
- **Jennifer Clark**, *Early Intervention Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Specialist*, Hawaii Department of Health Early Intervention
- **Janet DesGeorges**, *Executive Director*, Hands & Voices HQ
- **Marilyn Sass-Lehrer**, *Professor Emerita*, Gallaudet University
- **Sarah Honigfeld**, *Parent Infant Program Director*, The Learning Center for the Deaf
- **Nicole Hutchinson**, *Parent-Infant Program Coordinator*, The River School, Washington DC
- **Past Member: Linda Lytle**, *Professor, Department of Counseling*, Gallaudet University



Why We Came Together

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We Want to Change the  
Conversation from  
Challenges and Mitigation to  
Fostering Joy!



• We want families and professionals to attend to Social-Emotional Functioning

...not just language

...not just audiologic concerns

...not just medical questions

But really ***Fostering Joy***

## Mission Statement

*“Fostering Joy is a family/professional effort celebrating the joy of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.*”

*Fostering Joy provides support and resources for professionals and families to positively help the growth and development of a child who is D/HH.*

## Mission Statement

*Loving and supportive families provide a strong base for social and emotional health and well-being.*

*Focusing on special moments that bring joy helps families put aside concerns and focus on their natural and loving parent-child connections.”*

# Ambassador Roles

***Share:*** Commit to ensuring parent stories incorporate the joys of raising child(ren) who are deaf and hard of hearing.

***Inspire:*** Write and/or share articles that reinforce the importance of infusing joy and focusing on positive and joyful experiences.

***Spread:*** Present at conferences/workshops emphasizing Fostering Joy (see **PowerPoint template**)



# Ambassador Roles

***Infuse:*** Incorporate a focus on joy in parent to parent support activities and events, advisory groups, work plans, educational advocacy, etc. **(see Tip Sheets)**

***Connect:*** Invite parents to join the Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DHHFosteringJoy/>

***Delve:*** Professionals can use the adapted SEAM tool

***Encourage:*** Professionals can follow Instagram @DHHFosteringJoy



# Fostering Joy Home Page

[www.handsandvoices.org/resources/fostering-joy.htm](http://www.handsandvoices.org/resources/fostering-joy.htm)

Mission

History

Research

Core  
Members

PowerPoint  
Template

Tip Sheets

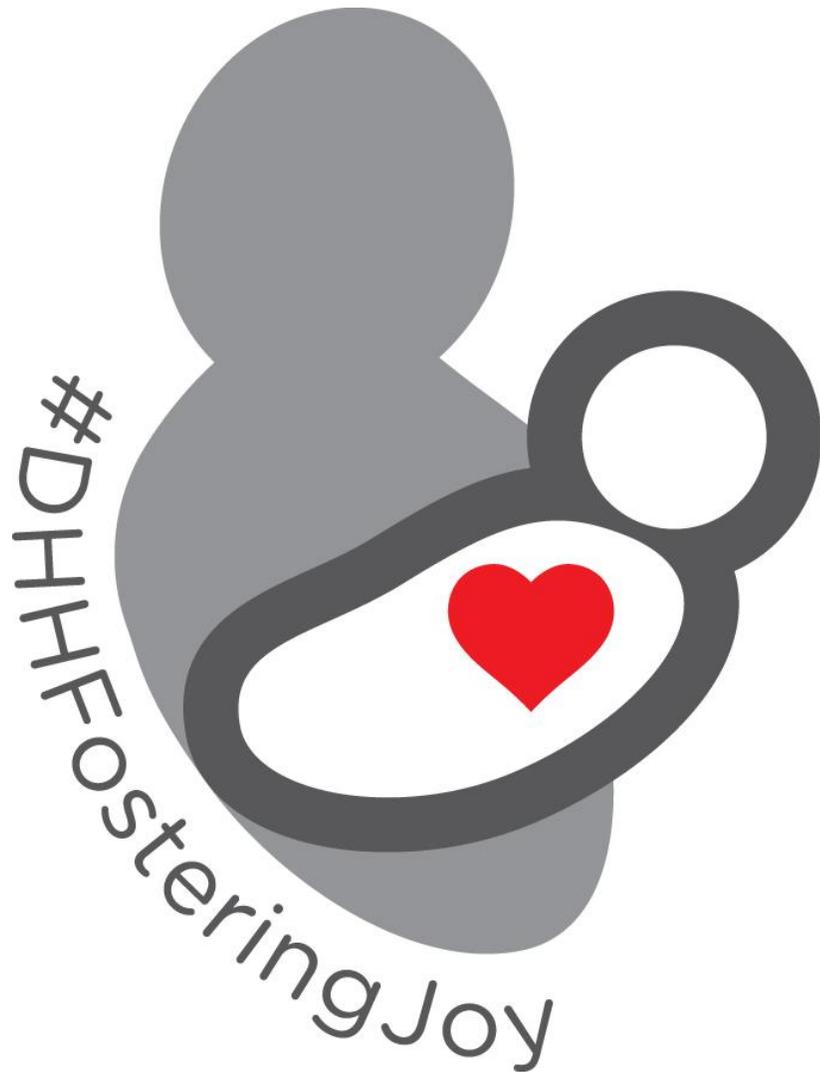
Ideas for  
Activities

Social  
Media Info

FJ Logo

SEAM  
Information

Contact  
Information



Be a Part of the  
#DHHFosteringJoy  
Movement!

**Questions?**

**Parent Ambassadors**

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**Professional Ambassadors**

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