



HANDS & VOICES

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

How To Help



HANDS &
VOICES™



Hello from Hands & Voices and the Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center.

We hope this edition of the HQ/FL3 Center eNews finds you getting the chance to enjoy summer. Whether it is a planned vacation, a day at the pool or a simple evening out on your patio, take a moment to relax, breathe in the fresh air and consider moments of summer that can rejuvenate you.



Hands & Voices has recently been disseminating an uplifting campaign titled "What's great about being Deaf/Hard of Hearing?" I enjoy reading these quotes from adults and teens who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing who share an inspiring message of hope and model a future that is bright for all children. Here are just a couple examples. *What is great about being Deaf/Hard of Hearing?*

"It means being a part of a world and community that are not afraid to be themselves."-Janie Barlow

"I'm a hard of hearing Pediatric Audiologist, my existing and personal experience help parents know that their children actually have no limits on their life and dreams." -Michelle Hu

To see more inspiring quotes and have access to a community where everyone is welcome, join us on [Facebook](#).

Wishing everyone a summer full of peace, love, and family fun!

Lisa Kovacs
Hands & Voices Director of Programs / FL3 Center Director

**These Boots
Are Made
For Leading**

HANDS & VOICES
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FRANKLIN, TN
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2021

Registration Deadlines

Early Bird Registration ends August 16th, 2021
Prices increase by \$50.00 on August 17th, 2021

General Registration includes:

Friday 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm - (Includes light meal and opening session/activities)
Saturday 7:00 am – 4:30 pm sessions - (Includes breakfast and lunch)
Sunday 7:30 am – 12:30 pm sessions - (Includes breakfast)

Special Room Rates Available until August 27th, 2021

Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

Space is limited; [book your room now](#).

For more information and to register



"Hearing is About Your Child's Brain"

Wednesday July 14th, 2021

11 AM - 12 PM MT

Hearing is about your child's brain! In this webinar designed specifically for families, you can learn more about the relationship between your child's hearing loss, their hearing technology, the development of your child's auditory brain, and reaching your goals of listening and talking.

This webinar is part of Living LSL: A Family Learning Series. These free learning opportunities were designed specifically with parents in mind so you'll have the skills and know-how to confidently raise your child with hearing loss to listen, talk, and achieve their dreams.

We're sharing what the parenting books likely didn't prepare you for by covering the essentials of LSL and spelling out the important need-to-know aspects of teaching a child who is deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk.

For complete information and to register click here.



"Sharing the Journey: A Virtual Panel with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults"

Monday July 26th, 2021

5:30 - 6:30 PM MT

This panel discussion is specifically for parents/caregivers who:

- have a child who has been newly identified with a hearing difference, regardless of the child's age
- reside in state/territory with limited opportunities to connect with diverse D/HH adults
- have not experienced the opportunity to meet and connect with diverse D/HH adults

This is an opportunity connect with DHH adults from America Society for Deaf Children ([ASDC](#)), National Cued Speech Association ([NCSA](#)), [AG Bell](#), and [Hands & Voices](#).

Space is limited;
Registration caps at 25 participants.

Register Here

FL3 Office Hours

Thursday, July 22nd, 2021

11 AM-12 PM MT

"Parent Leader and DHH Adult Recruitment"

How do we attract and engage new parent leaders and DHH adults in our support programs?

NCHAM Webinar

Tuesday, July 27th

10 – 11 AM MT



"Family Support: Proof is in the Data"

Come hear from your peers what they collectively learned in their quest to meet the new HRSA objectives to "increase by 20 percent from baseline the number of families enrolled in family-to-family support services by no later than

Facilitated by Amanda Schneider, Guide By Your Side Coordinator from Michigan H&V.

Audience: Family Leaders and FBOs

Captioning Provided. Please email [Candace](#) by July 15th for any other communication access requests.

Register here for Zoom link and password

Hands & Voices/FL3 Latino Council Forum Panel Presentation

Wednesday, September 1st, 2021
7 – 8 PM MT

The purpose of the H&V Community for Latino Family Support is to increase the internal (organizational service delivery) and external (direct support to families) effectiveness in service provision to families who are Spanish speaking.

Open to: Family Leaders, FBOs, EHDl Programs and Stakeholders

For more information and to register.

“Cue Camp New England” July 17th - August 12th, 2021

Join virtual Cue Camp New England 2021 for an array of parent and family programming, adult cued language classes, presentations, panels and discussions. Details available [here](#).

Register Here

Gallaudet University Virtual ASL Late Summer/Fall Classes



Gallaudet University's *ASL Connect* is an online interactive learning program to help families communicate directly with deaf family members, friends, or co-workers. The courses are taught by Deaf ASL professionals. Offerings include:

- Beginning and Intermediate Fingerspelling
- Classifiers I and II
- Visual Gestural Communication
- ASL I - VI

In addition to interactive courses, the program includes activities, webinars, and special events for students to accelerate their skills in ASL.

For more information and to register.

6 months of age.”

The work began when a group of EHDl experts, the FL3, and NTRC convened a workgroup to develop tools for programs to help meet this new program objective. Using QI methodology, the tools were then tested with the states who participated in the workgroup and later with an additional 7 states in a Learning Community.

During this webinar, EHDl Coordinators and parent leaders will share opportunities and challenges they encountered and any products and processes they developed to help them strive to meet the objective.

Captioning provided.

Register Here

Monthly Deaf-Blind Zoom Groups



Family 2 Family Communities (F2FC) brings together families of individuals with deaf-blindness to connect, share information and resources, and offer support to one another.

Groups meet in Zoom once per month during Sept to May. 10 groups available for English-speaking families, 1 for Spanish-speaking families, 1 just for grandparents and other extended family members.

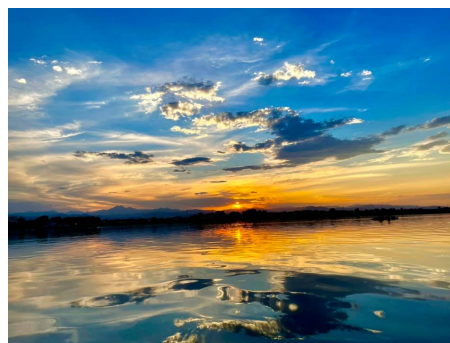
F2FC is a collaborative project sponsored by State Deaf-Blind Projects, National Center on Deaf-Blindness ([NCDB](#)), and National Family Association for Deaf-Blind ([NFADB](#)).

Visit the F2FC Facebook Page for more information.

Hands & Voices Headquarters provides an innovative delivery of supports and services including events in different formats and platforms.



Please click here for upcoming events.





The National Center on Deaf-Blindness is now home to numerous resources from Project SALUTE on using touch effectively, including 13 free information sheets on tactile learning strategies.

Project SALUTE (Successful Adaptations for Learning to Use Touch Effectively) was a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to California State University, Northridge between 1999 and 2004. This collection of resources and practical information is now available on the [Project SALUTE page](#) of the [NCDB website](#).

Hear to Learn Professional Learning Series: "Getting Started With Hearing Aids: A Remote Parent Education and Support Program"

A recent eHealth parent education and support research [study](#) shows that a remote parent education program helps families more so than typical hearing aid services alone. This study is now published open access online in the International Journal of Audiology in a supplement called [Connected hearing healthcare: shifting from theory to practice](#).

To help other professionals use the remote program, the Provider Guide and program have been made available on the [Hear to Learn website](#). Go to the [tutorials page](#) and see *Getting Started With Hearing Aids: A Remote Parent Education and Support Program* at the top of the page.



The National Genetics Education and Family Support Center ([Family Center](#)), a core program of Expecting Health, works to improve access to quality genetic services and to reach medically underserved populations. In partnership with [SPAN Advocacy Network](#) and [Parent to Parent USA](#), the Family Center created a series of digestible and accessible recorded learning sessions for families. Aishwarya Arjunan, a genetic counselor, explains the following topics/provides resources to aid families on their genetics journey:

- [Family Health History](#): Get tips on how to gather your family health history
- [Screening](#): Understand the different types of screening tests available
- [Referral to Genetics](#): Learn about what being referred to a genetics service means

These learning sessions are pre-recorded and available for access at any time. Once you register, you will be provided with a link to access the video on the Expecting Health YouTube Channel.

Please contact [Molly Martzke](#) if you have any questions.

**Family Goodie Bags Get Parents Started
Submitted by Katie Greene
Utah Parent Center-Utah EHDl Program**

Our program wanted to focus on providing better resources to families in a way that they could use right away. We came up with the idea to provide *Family Goodie Bags* to audiologists and Early Intervention (EI) professionals to share with families at their hearing aid fitting appointments or during a home visit from the EI professional.

The *Family Goodie Bag* consists of these items:

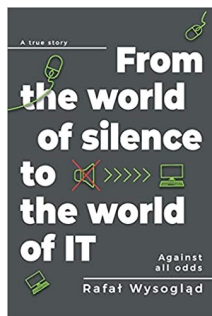
- A drawstring backpack with our logo
- A coupon for EarGear so they could purchase the exact type to fit their child's hearing device. (We also were able to obtain a few coupons for FREE EarGear for families in greater need--these will be provided on an as-needed basis and not included in each individual bag.)
- A pilot cap in either yellow, white, or pink to help families keep their babies' hearing devices safe from curious hands and mouths. :)
- A magnet with our parent-to-parent support program summary, logo, our social media pages and a QR code to our Facebook page.
- A flyer for the SignOn program through American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC). This flyer has a code for a free one-year membership to ASDC. Our program decided to purchase ASDC memberships for families in our state to help provide more language development opportunities,

along with the opportunity to meet with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing adult at their convenience. We liked the SignOn program because they provide the option for families to meet other families or for their children to meet other children their ages, so there was flexibility depending on what the family wanted to do.

- Word/ASL Sign labels/flashcards: each goodie bag comes with 100 labels with black and white pictures and English words--the back has the ASL sign for the word
- BabySigning Time flash cards with 100 vocabulary words each to provide for families that are more focused on learning ASL.

We decided to provide these *Family Goodie Bags* as a way for us to advertise more broadly about the parent-to-parent support that our state offers. We had originally begun this process by providing infant board books to audiologists to provide to families at diagnosis, along with The Beginnings Parent Support Notebook. These goodie bags provided a way for us to expand this reach to families and we are hoping it will help parents feel more widely supported.

Because we do not have a Hands & Voices Chapter in our state, our Family-Based Organization (FBO) contracts directly with our state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program, and we, the parent support professionals, have the benefit of receiving support directly from the FBO in our state, which is the Utah Parent Center, and the ability to work directly with the Utah EHDI Program and are considered equal team members there. This collaboration between the two organizations has allowed us to reach more professionals directly and given us access to the largest existing parent support organization in our state. We work directly with both programs to implement these, and all the resources we provide for our families.



New Book Released "From the world of silence to the world of IT" Submitted by Rafał Wysogład




This book was born out of my heart's desires. I've decided to tell my own story – the story of a man who has been dealing with bilateral hearing loss since the age of two. But, despite this and against all odds, he's marched on, finding his own place in society and in the IT industry. Among the stories and reflections in this book you will find pieces of advice for deaf people and their parents. I hope that my book will encourage you, improve your self-belief and show that you should never give up in your fight for a better quality of life. I am a university graduate. At the age of two, I fell ill with the mumps, which resulted in bilateral hearing loss (85dB). I work in the IT industry, which is my passion. I am successfully fulfilling my ambition in several areas of testing and automation, especially in DevOps. I come from the charming Kotlina Klodzka and a love of nature is in my blood. That is why I spend every spare moment on a mountain trail by a lake, close to a wooden holiday house. I like to sit in silence and indulge in the beauty of nature. I am a fan of excursions to far-away and not-so-far-away places, cycling and all sport activities.

How to Submit a Request for FL3 Technical Assistance

Requesting technical assistance from the FL3 team is easy! [Click here](#) for the online form.

Hands & Voices FL3 Center Technical Assistance

The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center Technical Assistance aids family-based support organizations, including Hands & Voices (H&V) Chapters/Programs, EHDI Program recipients, and family leaders in meeting their family engagement, leadership, and family support program objectives.



Request TA here: <https://handsandvoices.org/fl3/request-ta.html>