



The H&V Family Leadership in Language and Learning

"Hands & Voices Family Leadership: Where love, language and learning thrive."



November 6, 2017

Greetings and Happy Fall!

As the leaves have begun to change colors, our staff continues to be busy working on many FL3 activities. The National Needs Assessment continues to take center stage with work on tabulating and analyzing various surveys as well as conducting focus groups. We have been providing technical assistance to EHDI systems stakeholders. Progress is being made developing the new FL3 section of the website and is expected to be launched very soon!

Some of the goals of the FL3 are being completed by working with our program partners, the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. Hands & Voices is a parent-driven organization and has strong collaborative partnerships with other organizations. Hands & Voices would not be where it is today without the collaboration of other organizations. As our organization has grown to over 47 chapters worldwide, the culture of partnership between parents and professionals is one of the most powerful features that will carry us into the future.

Take a moment to learn about one of our partners in achieving the goals of the FL3 - The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center.

As always, if you have questions or need help please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can direct any FL3 questions to the FL3 Team.

Warm wishes,
The FL3 Team



Partner Spotlight

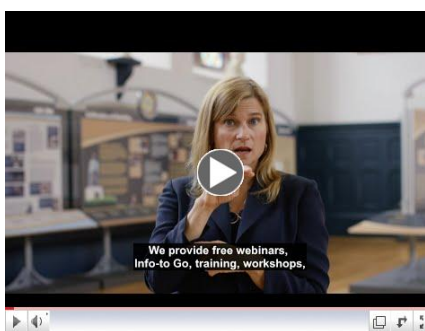


Hands & Voices is excited to partner with The Clerc Center on our work with the Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3), as a way to share our resources with families through individual state's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI).

Working with Hands & Voices on FL3 is one of the ways in which the Clerc Center looks to contribute to strengthening the intervention part of EHDI systems. The Clerc Center's and Gallaudet University's role in this project is to share resources related to early language acquisition and literacy.

The Clerc Center's positioning in this project allows them to bring resources geared towards early intervention providers such as "Setting Language in Motion" and "Maximizing Language Acquisition" to families and professionals across the United States.

Bridgetta Bourne-Firl, Director of Training, Products, & Dissemination and Clerc Center/GU Point of Contact for FL3, stated: "The Clerc Center is rolling up its sleeves and ready to jump in and partner in this exciting national effort to bring user-friendly, evidence based resources to families to improve language and literacy outcomes for coming generations of deaf and hard of hearing children."



[Click here](#) to see resources offered from The Clerc Center

Hands & Voices Resource
A New FaceBook Group for Families



Deaf/HH Plus: A New Group for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children with Additional Challenges

We have many families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children who have additional health challenges and for quite some time, parents have expressed interest in connecting with one another. Hands & Voices now has a new Facebook group: Deaf/HH Plus.

Deaf/HH Plus is meant to be a positive term, not in any way negative or insensitive to the child who has medical issues along with hearing loss. In fact, we see it as an "A+" or "B+," meaning the child carries additional positive qualities and it is a gift that needs to be carefully unwrapped. And the "Plus" most often means the child and family has added responsibilities and requires additional expertise."

We are grateful for the love and support of professionals and other parents whose children do not have a "Plus." This new group is meant to be a safe place for families with DHH Plus children/adults and we ask our allies to invite only families who share this same experience.

The group is moderated by Danielle Sibert, Djenne-ammal Morris and Candace Lindow-Davies. Participants will need to answer two questions about whether they are the parent of a child or parent of an adult who is DHH and whether their child/adult child has other health considerations. This helps us ensure that those who join are in the correct group. For more information or any questions on this group contact: [Candace Lindow-Davies](#)

[Click here to join group](#)

For additional resources for families, explore [Hands & Voices](#) or sign-up for the Hands & Voices E-News, which is distributed bi-monthly. Contact [Jeannene](#) to be added to E-News mailing list.

EHDI Legislation Update



On October 19, 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump signed the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act of 2017 into law, which will fund continued research and improve program development for early hearing detection and intervention in newborns and young children who

are deaf/hard of hearing for the next five years. Young children are now included as part of early hearing detection and intervention programs.

EHDI has allowed newborns to be screened for hearing loss before they leave the hospital, paving the way for early identification and intervention. Statewide programs require initial hearing tests in infants, evaluations to identify hearing loss, and the services and early intervention programs that put children on the path to develop critical skills necessary to succeed.



Hands & Voices Out and About

Are you attending AMCHP or EHDI?

Come check out one of our presentations at these conferences. While you are there make sure to stop and say hello. We would love to meet you!

AMCHP

February 10-14, Arlington, VA

EHDI

March 18-20, Denver, CO



Hands & Voices Mission:

Hands & Voices is a parent-driven organization that supports families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology.

Hands & Voices operates several outreach activities, parent/professional collaborations, and advocacy efforts that are focused on supporting families in order to ensure Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children reach their highest potential. Several of the organization's main operating programs and projects include: Guide By Your Side (GBYS), O.U.R. Project, Advocacy Support & Training (ASTra), DHH

[Adult Infusion](#), [Deafed.net](#), Annual H&V Leadership Conference, Chapter Support and Information Dissemination as detailed on the Hands & Voices website.
[Click here](#) for more information about Hands & Voices

Quick Links...and Contact Information

[Website](#)

[FL3](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Questions](#)



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This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.