



**HANDS &  
VOICES™**

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



**Family  
Leadership in  
Language &  
Learning  
(FL3)**



September - October E-news

## Partner Spotlight



**2020 EHDI Meeting  
March 8-10, 2020  
Kansas City, MO**

In its 19th year, the EHDI Meeting has built a strong reputation for bringing together a wide variety of attendees including those who: work in state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs; assist in EHDI efforts on the federal level; provide



Greetings!

Wow, it's hard to believe that we've come to the unofficial close of summer with Labor Day Weekend! This summer has brought some great webinars and trainings that were

screening, diagnostic and early intervention support at the state/ local level to young children with hearing loss and their families; champion Medical Home activities within each state; are parents of children with hearing loss; or are deaf or hard-of-hearing adults who are helping to expand opportunities for young children with hearing loss. EHDI Meeting participants will range from state and local programs to the federal level and from academics to families.

Currently, abstract submissions are being accepted until the following dates in September:

Breakout/Poster Sept. 30

Instructional Sept. 13

[Learn more and apply.](#)

## H&V Leadership Conference



**"Every Child, Every Family, Every Leader"**

**Washington D.C.  
September 20-22, 2019**

The Hands & Voices Leadership Conference brings together family leaders from all over the world to develop skills and receive training on how to provide leadership to others and affect systemic change where they live. It is the only

developed by the FL3 team. Make sure to check out "Family Engagement in Systems Leadership" that was produced in August. This one-hour webinar, the third in the Hands & Voices Leadership series, focused on family engagement in systems leadership through the topics of: family leadership representing diverse family experiences, family leadership in systems from diverse and cultural populations, systems and legislative advocacy. You can [view all past webinars on the website.](#)

The end of summer also means preparation for the H&V Leadership Conference for us. This year's conference will be September 20-22 in Washington D.C. If you are planning on joining us, we welcome you! If you have not yet been, please consider attending or supporting a leader in your area. It's a great opportunity to network and gain information. You can [learn more and view the agenda.](#)

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

## What Parents Say About Their Understanding of EHDI programs and Early Intervention

Hands & Voices recently developed an infographic based upon results of a survey that was intended to gather parent and caregiver feedback of children ages 0-5 that have been identified with a permanent hearing loss and their awareness of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs and enrollment into Early Intervention (EI).

The information outlines the importance of the 1-3-6 Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) steps: screening by 1 month, diagnosis by 3 months and enrollment in Early Intervention (EI) by 6 months. [The Infographic](#) was created to highlight each part of the 1-3-6 steps including links to important resources.

The development of the infographic was supported by funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Have You Checked Out Hearing First Recently?

conference of its kind devoted exclusively to train family members, with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, to be effective agents of change.

Learn more about the conference, see the agenda, and registration materials.

[Learn more here.](#)



Hearing First is a subsidiary organization of the Oberkötter Foundation, a private foundation with a thirty-year history of supporting opportunities for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to learn to listen and talk. They are a multimedia connection point for families and professionals to improve outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing through listening and spoken language (LSL); dedicated to powering children's potential. You will find resources, articles, blogs, research that addresses the literacy and reading connection, the power of daily reading with your child who is deaf or hard of hearing, and the importance of many and meaningful interactions with your child.

As we head into the fall, check out [LSL By the Season: Fall Reading for Early Literacy](#), for tips and suggested books to share with families who have young children with hearing loss.

## **Spotlight on Success**

### **NE-EHDI and NE H&V - Program Partnership**

**by Shelli Janning**

### **Program Coordinator NE H&V GBYS**

Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NE-EHDI) program and the Nebraska Hands & Voices (NE H&V) program has experienced a very successful collaboration. Heading into our third year, NE-EHDI contracted with NE H&V to provide educational outreach and follow-up with physicians and families. Educating physicians and nurses has been beneficial in meeting our 1-3-6 protocol in addition to creating a seamless experience, from a referred newborn hearing screen, to follow-up with families, and to offer support to families who have children diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). When a parent hears their child has been referred, they may experience a broad range of emotions. Sometimes parents are comfortable waiting for follow-up testing, other times they may experience intense anxiety. The Program Coordinator for the H&V GBYS program is also the person who does the follow up for EHDI. This person explains the importance of further testing from a parent and professional point of view. This model allows a parent to have access to a parent who has been through a similar experience while helping them better understand the need to complete timely audiological follow-up. It is very rewarding to talk with a parent who is in the process of having their child's hearing tested and to help them understand options/answer questions to ease their anxiety. At times, NE H&V can even offer a Parent Guide to attend a diagnostic evaluation with the family. Families are also assured if their child is diagnosed, that we will follow-up and provide them with support. Although the majority of the families are English speaking, NE H&V also has a Spanish speaking Parent Guide to contact families in their native language to ensure they have a better understanding of the process.

Once a child is diagnosed, the family is contacted and provided more information about the Nebraska Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side Program. If they are interested in the program,

they are assigned to a Parent Guide, a trained parent of a child who is DHH, who either lives in their geographical area or who has a child with a similar hearing difference. These Guides provide information and support to families in whatever manner they feel is helpful. This can be face to face, social event or having a discussion via phone conversations, emailing etc. If they are not interested in the program, the Guide offers to check in with the family at a future date, to send educational brochures, and invites them to contact NE H&V at any time if they need anything. We also encourage them to "like" the Nebraska Hands & Voices Facebook page to learn about upcoming trainings and opportunities.

The NE-EHDI program provides funding for items that the Guide by Your Side grant is unable to cover. This collaboration has not only provided information and support to families in a timely manner but has also been able to provide more enjoyable and rewarding trainings/workshops. NE-EHDI and NE H&V continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss the collaboration so we can continue to make it stronger and more beneficial to the families we serve. The amount of respect each person has for each other is what makes the partnership so strong.

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**Hands & Voices FL3 Project**

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