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VOICES™**

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



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



November - December E-news



Partner Spotlight



LAURENT CLERC
NATIONAL DEAF EDUCATION CENTER

Info to Go

The Clerc Center hosts "Info to Go" on their website. This site is designed to share information and provide



Greetings!

Happy Fall! As we move into late fall and towards the end of the year, things keep moving forward here at H&V and the FL3 project. One of the focuses of the FL3 project is family leadership. Many agencies and organizations make the assertion that Family Engagement or Family Leadership is a central and integral part to the success of programs and

resources with professionals and families on a variety of topics related to children and young people under 21 years of age who are deaf or hard of hearing.

It includes subject matter such as Deaf Culture, Early Intervention, Family Resources, Literacy, and more.

Be sure to check out the [latest resources](#).



JCIH Position Statement Released

Throughout its over 30-year history, the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) explored the complexities of hearing loss and its effect on a child's development, seeking to find newer and better methods to identify and serve the infants and their families.

The Committee's primary activity has been publication of position statements summarizing the state of the science and art in infant hearing, and recommending the preferred practice in early identification and appropriate intervention of newborns and infants at risk for or with hearing loss.

systems. It is not an afterthought or a supplement but something that is intentionally interwoven throughout. The JCIH Supplemental for Guidelines for Early Intervention - Goal #8 states that "Equitable partnerships between families and EI programs and systems are critical to the success of EHDI programs and the achievement of optimal outcomes for children."

The FL3 project has gathered and created information about family leadership. Whether you are professional working in the EHDI system helping to promote family leadership or a family leader seeking information on skill development, you can find information and trainings on the [FL3 Website](#).

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 gathered feedback from parents and caregivers 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).

Read the recently released [JCIH Position Statement 2019](#).



EHDI Family Based Organizations (FBO) Report to FL3

During June and July 2019 the FL3 asked all EHDI designated family based organizations to respond to a survey to provide information about the work of their FBOs; such as the programs provided, numbers of families served, leadership training, etc. during year 2 of the current federal funding (April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019). The results of this survey highlighted several areas that the FL3 Program can assist FBOs in meeting the needs of families who have children who are D/HH in the final months of this grant period (through March 31, 2020). The results of this survey can be found [here](#).

Spotlight on Success Connecting Families in Oklahoma by

Renee Powell, Oklahoma Family Network

Oklahoma Family Network and the Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Program have collaborated to identify family leaders throughout the state in rural and urban areas with diverse backgrounds in communication modalities as well as degrees of hearing loss. Family leaders have been able to attend meetings, conferences, as well as focus on working on further outreach to families who have children who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Compensating families for their time, childcare, and transportation has allowed families the chance to participate. Oklahoma Family Network and the Newborn Hearing Screening staff have used conference calls and Facebook messenger to connect with family leaders living in rural areas to plan and carry out business.

The goal of the strategy was to increase family engagement in the Early Hearing Detection Diagnosis and Intervention system in Oklahoma especially with respect to families living in rural areas. This strategy in Oklahoma has been successful given that staff in urban centers of the state were able to collaborate on projects with family leaders who were in more remote locations. All of the family leaders bring various talents and backgrounds to the table to assist families with similar relatable experiences in the path of having children who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

One family leader expressed her appreciation in being able to participate in the Oklahoma Audiology Task Force meeting through the use of EHDI funding. I "loved seeing and hearing things from the professionals' view and am looking forward to the next one. I'm thankful for Oklahoma Family Network who provides these opportunities for me." Another family leader

stated that "Oklahoma Family Network and the EHDI program have given me an opportunity to break back into professional life while allowing me to care for my family personally as well as to assist other families with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing while living in a rural setting."

Given the age of technology, social media, and EDHI funding means that living in a rural setting does not prevent families from having a seat at the table. Never underestimate the power of paying family leaders for their time and childcare to allow them to participate. Staying connected digitally breaks down the barriers of distance for families with children who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

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