



# HANDS & VOICES

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

How To Help



1st Quarter 2021

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Greetings and Happy New Year from Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center,

The year 2020 was not easy for many of us, and so many in our community have experienced real hardship such as loss of income, illness, additional stress at home caused by virtual learning, working from home, and more. Hands & Voices responded early to the COVID-19 pandemic with the slogan "We are Community, We Are Family, We are Strong." Over the last 10 months, we have witnessed family leaders, DHH adult leaders, and professionals respond and take action in ways that make this slogan come to life. Innovation, spirit, collaboration, compassion, and partnership are just a few words that come to mind when I reflect on our community and how we collectively work to support families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This demonstration of commitment, hard work, and passion has been a shining light as we say goodbye to 2020.

Helen Keller said "Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world right in the eye." Looking ahead to 2021, the FL3 Center wants to thank each and every one of you for standing strong with us as we will all get through this together.

I hope you can take time to read through this edition of the HQ/FL3 eNews; we use this as one of our platforms to share information and resources with all stakeholders. We will distribute the HQ/FL3 eNews quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October; we look forward to sharing more resources with you.



## Upcoming Events

Don't miss these opportunities to connect and learn with other leaders.  
Registration Required

**FL3 Office Hours**  
**Thursday, January 28th, 2021**  
**6 PM - 7 PM MT**

**"Family Event Planning"**: Learn about resources to prepare, implement, and evaluate events for families.

**Audience:** Family Leaders and FBOs

**Facilitator:** Michaela Hamaker, Guide By Your Side Coordinator, Texas Hands & Voices

**Captioning Provided.** Please email [Candace](#) by January 21st if requesting ASL interpreting or other accommodations.

**Register** by Tuesday, January 26th. Link and passcode will be sent January 27th.

### Webinar:

**Hosted by Hear to Learn**  
**Friday, January 29, 2021**  
**11:30 AM - 12 PM MT**

### "Listening and Language Everywhere!"

**Presenter:** Jeanette Smoot, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert AVE

Most may be surprised by how many opportunities for listening and language learning are sprinkled throughout an ordinary day. Families pursuing the listening and spoken language approach and the professionals who serve them are invited join a discussion of how to maximize language during meals, play, chores, music and story time.

For more information and to register:  
[Click here](#)



### Call for Workshop Proposals Deadline January 27, 2021

2021 Family Voices Leadership  
Virtual Event  
June 8th, 10th, and 15th  
10 AM -3 PM MT

Family Voices is actively seeking

In partnership,

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

\*This Hands & Voices and FL3 Center quarterly eNews is intended for a broad audience. Please feel free to disseminate it to others. Our hope is that Family Based Organizations, Family Leaders, and professionals will forward it to their distribution lists.



### ASL Certificate Program

Gallaudet University's Professional Studies ASL Certificate Program offers students opportunities to learn American Sign Language and Deaf Studies from Deaf educators both onsite and online.

A 24 credit program provides students with specific and practical skills useful for parents of children who are DHH and for individuals who are pursuing careers that use ASL (excluding becoming an ASL interpreter.) Students will acquire proper ASL grammar, vocabulary, linguistics, conversational skills, and will engage with key aspects of Deaf Studies.

For more information and to apply [click here](#).

**NEW APP FOR FAMILIES WITH DEAF & HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN**

**Four Key components of support every day for 90 days:**

- Wisdom from a parent
- Wisdom from a Deaf/Hard of hearing Adult
- One article to read
- One new Website/resource to explore

HANDS & VOICES

Available on the App Store  
GET IT ON Google Play

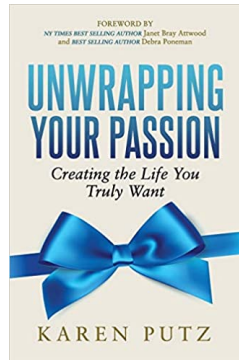
The "Hands & Voices Parent App" is designed to provide daily support to families with deaf and hard of hearing children.

The app was designed in collaboration with deaf and hard of hearing students from [National Technical Institute of the Deaf](#) at [Rochester Institute of Technology](#) to provide four key resources on a day-by-day basis: a quote from a seasoned parent, a quote from a deaf/hard of hearing adult, an article to read, and a website/resource to explore.

workshop proposals that address health equity; supporting families during the pandemic; telehealth; family and youth engagement; organizational development; communication strategies; and impacting policy.

[Click here](#) for more information and to submit a proposal.

**H&V Reads:  
A Leadership Book Club  
Friday, March 19th, 2021  
1-2 PM MT**



**H&V Facilitator:** Janet DesGeorges with guest author Karen Putz

To so many, waking up to the same old life is a constant reality. It's time to unwrap the passion within and throw aside "cautionisms," because Unwrapping Your Passion shakes up the status quo of aging and redefines the barometer of living a passionate life. Karen Putz provides the clues to finding passion and the necessary steps to take to manifest the life many so desire. "Unwrapping Your Passion" is an Author Academy Award Finalist.

To register, [click here](#).

**Observe, Understand & Respond:  
the O.U.R. Children's  
Safety Project**

**Parent Safety Toolkit**

We at Hands & Voices wanted to share the news that parents and professionals can help our growing kids be safe in the world. This [Parent Safety Toolkit](#) shares resources to help parents, kids, and the community to understand specific

The Hands & Voices Parent App is available to download at no cost via the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

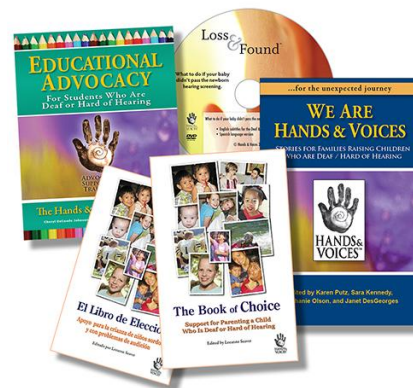
**CAVE Checklist  
Communication Access in Virtual Education**

The [CAVE Checklist](#) is intended to be completed by students age 9 and above who are deaf or hard of hearing. The checklist will help to identify possible communication access issues that may occur during virtual education situations.



**The Hands & Voices "Fostering Joy: A Reflective Journal"** was created for parents/caregivers of children who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) to capture joyful moments on their parenting journey. By responding to a series of prompts, families are encouraged to establish an intentional practice of creating space for bonding experiences between caregiver and child, having an impact on the child's social emotional development and well-being.

For more information and to order [click here](#).



**Other Hands & Voices Products**

[Available Here](#)

**COVID FL3 Resources  
Available**



**The Impact of Coronavirus on Households  
Across America - conducted by the Robert  
Wood Johnson Foundation**



skills, knowledge and practices that can keep our kids safe and independent.



Watch this short interview about the Parent Safety Toolkit. Captioned in English and Spanish.



### Let's Talk LSL

Let's Talk LSL are live small-group chats. They are a great way to connect virtually with other families who know what it's like to have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

[Hearing First](#) will be hosting these chats regularly so you can connect with Lydia, Marge, and other community members for an informative, fun, and candid conversation about raising a child with hearing loss! Bring questions and share thoughts on supporting your child's listening, language, and literacy development.

Contact [Marge](#) with any questions.

Thursday, January 28th  
12-12:45 PM MST  
[Register here](#)

### Hearing First Community Forum

[Hearing First](#) provides a platform for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing and who use Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) to find advice and tips for everyday LSL situations and share 'go-to' or new favorite strategies, insights and discoveries for other families to use.

[Sign up here.](#)

"[The Impact of Coronavirus](#)" poll series offers a national look at the problems emerging from the pandemic relating to household finances, jobs, health care, housing, transportation, caregiving, and well-being. Researchers interviewed 3,454 adults age 18 or older across the United States and the findings are shared in a series of five survey reports.

For more COVID resources [click here](#).  
We are Community. We are Family. We are Strong.

## Family Voices [webinar](#) will share the work they have completed for the CARES Act Telehealth for Family Engagement Grant

January 27th, 2021 1 PM- 2 PM MT  
Register [here](#).

**Family Voices CARES Act telehealth curricula launch!**

During this session, Family Voices will share details about *The Fab 4 for a Family-Centered Telemedicine Appointment curriculum*, which includes prerecorded webinars, customizable PowerPoints with speaker notes, and more supplemental materials to help achieve a family-centered telehealth experience!

**January 27 3:00- 4:00 EST**  
**Register Today!**

\*Registration link below



## The Moog Center for Deaf Education Helping Your Child Learn to Talk

Virtual Workshop for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, ages 2 to 5  
Tuesday, June 15 - Friday, June 18, 2021



**H&V  
DeafEd.Net  
Website  
has been  
updated!**

Since 2003, [DeafEd.Net](#) has been a resource for education programs serving students who are D/HH and professionals searching for positions in Deaf Education to find one another. Deeply rooted in the value of deaf educators and committed to providing a platform for posting open deaf education positions and resumes of deaf education job seekers, H & V has completely overhauled the previous site. Please share this [valuable resource](#) with families and professionals.

For more information and to register

[Click here.](#)



## **Hands & Voices Events Upcoming Events Sponsored by Hands & Voices Headquarters**

Hands & Voices Headquarters provides an innovative delivery of supports and services including events in different formats and platforms. All events at Hands & Voices will facilitate accessibility features as needed/when requested during the registration process. [Click here](#) for upcoming events.

## **2 Book Reviews Featuring Young Authors Demii Wright and Maddison N. Davis Submitted by Karen Putz**



**Demii Wright**

**"Can You Hear Me Now"** is a new book written by 9-year-old Demii Wright.

Demii developed sudden hearing loss in one ear. At first, she struggled with this new change in her life-one day she could hear and the next day she couldn't. Her mother encouraged her to journal her



**Maddison Davis**

**Maddison N. Davis**, 8 years old, is currently writing her fourth book. The titles of the first three are:

- **"Maddie's World: The First Day of School"**
- **"Maddie's World: What Students Need the Most!"**

feelings.

In an interview with Madison365, Demii shared the motivation for writing her book:

*"I just wanted to tell the world and everybody who has hearing loss, or may have something else, that it's OK to be different and that you can still do whatever you want in life. It's important for young people to know that they aren't alone and that it is important to follow your dreams, and one day they will come true."*

Demii was featured on the [local news](#).

Demii's book can be [ordered](#) on Amazon

- "Maddie's World: I Like Me!"

The 4th book is "**Maddie's World: My Feelings Matter.**" This book focuses on processing feelings of grief during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Maddison has a conductive hearing loss. Her father, Rashaun, serves on the [Fostering Joy](#) committee at Hands & Voices.

Her books may be purchased through her [website](#).

Follow her on [Facebook](#)



**EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**  
**MARCH 2-5, 2021**  
**10 AM-3 PM MT**

(VIRTUALLY THE SAME CONFERENCE, WITHOUT ELEVATORS, AIRPLANE TICKETS, OR HOTEL ROOM KEYS)

Virtual experience featuring plenary sessions, almost 200 presentations and posters, networking opportunities, and chances to connect with exhibitors. All presentations/posters will be recorded and available for viewing for 2 months following. Sixteen optional instructional sessions offered in the morning.

Registrations rates have been significantly reduced and additional discounts apply to students and family members of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

For complete information [click here](#).

[Register here](#).

Early-bird registration ends February 12th, 2021

SPOTLIGHT ON  
**SUCCESS**

**Submitted by Renee Powell - Oklahoma Family Network**

Community, social interaction, and friendship are crucial for humans. The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted so many aspects of daily life for so many. In a sense, the ability to connect socially was lost. Silent dinners

are a prominent feature in the Deaf Community where people gather and communicate using American Sign Language (ASL). Like so many other events, silent dinners were either cancelled or in some cases done over Zoom.

Silent(ish) Zoom meetings were born out of this need for socialization. In August 2020, the Oklahoma Family Network partnered with the Family and Early Childhood Service at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf to offer monthly Zoom meetings where people are welcome to communicate using spoken language and ASL as they are comfortable. The online gatherings start out with brief introductions and move on to light-hearted ice breaker questions or games that foster vocabulary practice.

The original goal of the Silent(ish) Zoom meetings was to allow families of children with hearing loss who have chosen to use American Sign Language or Total Communication, a combination of spoken and signed language, to have an opportunity to practice ASL in a non-judgmental and safe setting. Families are encouraged to join with any level of ASL expertise allowing new signers to feel welcome. Initially, these gatherings were directed at parents of children with hearing loss but have expanded to include grandparents as well as parents of children who are using ASL to communicate in absence of hearing loss. An individual studying ASL at a local university participated in the October Zoom meeting. In October, the meeting featured a Halloween themed Bingo game and included both parents as well as children.

These online gatherings have given families a chance to chat, sign, laugh, and learn. One participant who has a child with hearing loss commented that "it was the highlight of [her] week." Another parent commented that "I could really use chat time with adults" and that she "really enjoyed last night." One parent of child using ASL in absence of hearing loss said that she "had a good time and learned a lot." Gatherings via Zoom extend beyond boundaries of Oklahoma. Silent(ish) Zoom meetings are promoted using social media and private Facebook groups as well as via email. A parent of a child with hearing loss living in Connecticut saw one such post and contacted Oklahoma Family Network inquiring if her parents living in Oklahoma could participate in the October meeting. Hence, the first grandparents joined the meeting. After attending, they said that they "had a great time playing Halloween Bingo"! They "immediately texted their daughter in CT and told her how much fun it was! Our motivation for learning ASL is even stronger now. Who knew that it could be so much FUN?"

Some of the participating families with children with hearing loss receive services through the Family Engagement and Early Language Support (FEELS) program through the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. The FEELS program offers early intervention from birth to age six to families in Oklahoma with children who have hearing loss. Parent Advisors, trained professionals, assist families with language and communication goals for their children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. They serve as coaches and provide support in ways to encourage language and literacy development. Interested families may receive services by filling out the following [online referral form](#).

Oklahoma Family Network (OFN) provides emotional support through support groups and by connecting families with other families. Families receive information and training learning to advocate and lead with regional coordinators that contact and engage families. OFN strives to provide unbiased support to these families regardless of the chosen method of communication e.g. spoken English, sign language, or total communication. Families who would like to talk with another family with a child who has hearing loss may fill out the [online referral form](#).

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## **How to Submit a Request for FL3 Technical Assistance**

Requesting technical assistance from the FL3 team is easy!



## 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>

[Click here](#) for the online form.

[Website](#) [Resources](#) [Facebook Page](#)