



Greetings and happy Fall from Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center.

The Hands & Voices community is just returning from our annual Leadership Conference. Many of you joined us this year. We thank you for your participation!

We had leaders participate from all over, including 48 different U.S. states, Canada, and the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau territories. Although all of us have become really good at remote work, having the opportunity to convene in person fills our souls in a way that can't be felt through virtual platforms like Zoom.



If you missed the conference this year, mark your calendars for next year, October 1 – 3, 2023 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are so grateful to be a partner with all of you and look forward to our continued work together!

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't do as individuals."

Jean Vanier

In partnership,

Lisa Kovacs
Hands & Voices FL3 Center Director

Fathering a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child: An Onboarding Checklist for Dads

The [Dads' Onboarding Checklist](#) is the latest resource developed by the EHDI P2P Committee, a cross-section of parents and professionals.

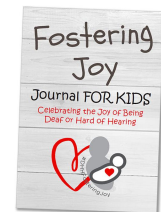
This resource is for fathers of children newly identified as Deaf/hard of hearing, parent leaders, professionals providing DHH-specific family support, EHDI providers, and stakeholders.

New fathers will find advice from fathers who have shared their experiences professionals will find tips for proactively working with fathers. Visit the [Family Support section of the Hands & Voices Virtual Waiting Room](#) to [download the](#)

Fostering Joy Journal for Kids

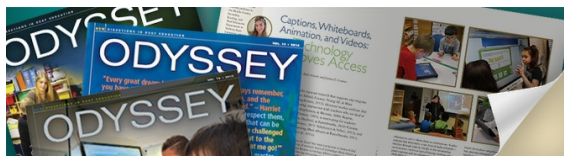
The [Hands & Voices Fostering Joy Journal for Kids](#) was created

by trained Hands & Voices D/HH Adult Guides for children who are deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) to journal about their joys and accomplishments, ideally with an adult who is D/HH themselves. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, the child can learn about D/HH adult role models, strategies to self-advocate, and how being D/HH is a cause for celebration! See Minnesota DHH



[document](#) to share with families.

The checklist makes a great addition to an EHDl or family-based organization website, inclusion in a "New Parent Packet" of materials or to use at a networking session for families and/or specifically for fathers.

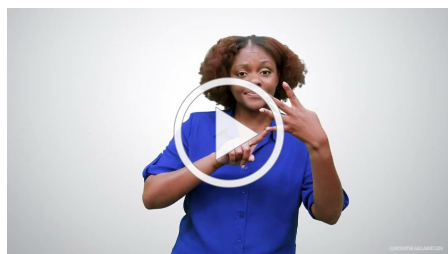


**Odyssey:
"Access and Equity in Deaf
Education."
2023 Issue-Call for Articles**

Odyssey magazine is published annually by the Clerc Center. Each issue is theme-based, focusing on topics of importance as they relate to research, philosophy, and application and practice of instruction in the deaf education classroom. [Click here](#) for more information and to subscribe.

Article submissions for the 2023 issue of Odyssey on the topic "Access and Equity in Deaf Education" are still being accepted.

[Click here](#) for the 2023 Call for Submissions. ASL version below.



Guides describe the journal in the video below.



**Fostering Joy Hands & Voices
Chapter Toolkit Training**

**Tuesday, October 25th
8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM PT**

Beth Jones, NV Hands & Voices, and Cora Shahid, CA Hands & Voices will discuss the mission of the Fostering Joy Project and how you can apply Fostering Joy principles and resources in your Chapter. Great ideas and fun activities for family events and chapter meetings! (This offering is for H&V Chapters only.)

[Register Here.](#)

**Hands & Voices
Leadership Book Club**

**Friday, October 28th
3 PM ET/2 PM CT/1 PM MT/
12 PM PT (One hour)**

***The Fifteen Commitments of
Conscious Leadership***

Leaders who practice the 15 commitments end blame and criticism, speak candidly, openly and honestly, in a way that invites others to do the same, find their unique genius, let go of taking everything—especially themselves and their problems—so seriously. Read the book, and join us for the facilitated discussion to reinforce what you learned. Facilitator: Christine Griffin (WA H&V)

[Register here.](#)

**O.U.R. Children's Safety
Project Monthly Series**

**Saturday, November 5th
12 PM - 7:45 PM ET**

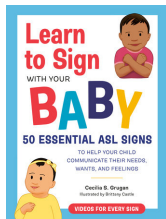
First annual Conference hosted by the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) 2022 for Latino families. Our mission is to train Latino families to understand the needs of living as a family with deaf children. Please join us for a full-day conference which will be held in Spanish via Zoom.

[Register here.](#)
[Information in Spanish](#)

[Hearing First](#) offers self-paced courses throughout the year that cover a wide variety of topics focused on LSL and audiology. Learning experiences are free and open to all learners, from beginners to advanced, and for professionals and families alike.

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

New Baby Signing Book Released



*Learn to Sign
with Your Baby:
50 Essential ASL Signs
to Help Your Child
Communicate their
Needs, Wants and
Feelings*

Get a jump start on communicating with your baby with 50 of the most practical ASL signs to use throughout the day with a baby.

Author Cecilia S. Grugan, a Deaf parent, gives detailed instructions and tips for how to master each sign, helpful advice and fun ideas to incorporate ASL into your life with a baby.

Step-by-step instructions and video for each sign are accessible by QR code.

Grugan lives in Washington DC with their Deaf partner and firstborn.

**October - June, 2023
Second Tuesday of Month
10 AM MT (1 hour)**

**November 8: Insights from
Casa (Court Appointed
Special Advocates)**
Presenter: Allison Cunningham,
AuD. All are welcome.

[Click here](#) for monthly topics and to register.



Mark your calendar!
The O.U.R. Children's Safety Project:
Monthly Learning Community
for parents, professionals, and D/HH adults

Bring the O.U.R. Project Home

Dates: 9 am PT/10 am MT/11 am CT/noon ET
Oct 11, 2022 through June 13, 2023, on 2nd Tuesdays each month
Register here for Zoom link: <https://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/index.htm>

Oct 11: This Year We Will/CEC Standards
Nov 08: Allison Cunningham, AuD: Insights from CASA
Dec 13: Deeper Dive into the Parent Safety Toolkit
Jan 10: Debbie Mood, Ph.D: Attachment & Safety
Feb 07: Daiva Mulleger-Treciokaite, Global Parents of D/HH Children (GPODHH) Safety Efforts
Mar 14: Hannah Lumby: Lived Experience: Bonding during 1-3-6
Apr 11: Sharing the OUR Project in our Chapter
May 9: Integrating Safety Into OUR work
Jun 13: Vook Club, Chapter Count, This Summer I Will

Is your
Chapter ready
for the next
safety
question?

Kids can't wait for
adults to be brave.

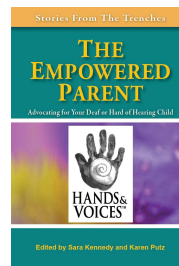
**FL3 Office Hours
Thursday, November 17th
1 PM ET/12 PM CT/11
AM MT/10 AM PT**

Support for D/HH Children in Child Care

What are ways we can better support D/HH children in childcare settings?

Join the community discussion to learn and share what is working for your families. Questions welcome!

[Register here.](#)



**New book from
Hands &
Voices:**

Educational
Advocacy stories
from parents.

[Click here](#) to
order and see

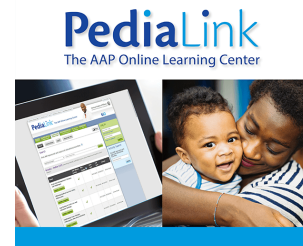
other available products.

The [National Resource Center for Patient/Family-Centered Medical Home](#) (NRC-PFCMH) is offering a

FREE PediaLink course that examines factors impacting equitable health care for Black children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). This 2-hour course covers the following topics:

- Historical Trauma of Racism and Ableism in Pediatric Medicine
- Increasing Equitable Care for Black CYSHCN Through Medical Home
- Intentionally Engage Black Fathers in their Children's Care
- Systems of Care for Black CYSHCN

ONLINE COURSE
Addressing Health Equity
for Black Children and Youth
with Special Health Care Needs



This free on-line course is available until August 3rd, 2025.

[Sign-up here.](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Findings from the Impact of Family Support and Engagement (IFSE) Learning Community

**Thursday November 10
3 PM ET/2 PM CT/1 PM MT/
12 PM PT (One hour)**

This webinar is hosted by Hands & Voices / FL3 Center and National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management / NTRC .

The purpose of the Impact of Family Support and Engagement (IFSE) Learning Community was to determine the most important domains (e.g., child/family well-being, knowledge, empowerment) of family support and how to measure those domains through a survey.

Details and registration for this webinar will be coming soon.

Have you heard of AFFIRM?

A first of its kind meeting at the Hands & Voices Leadership Conference in September 2022 at Fairport, NY proved to be a successful session that had overwhelming positive feedback from participants, most of whom were from diverse populations.

The AFFIRM: Leaders of Color Training session was an idea put forth by diverse leaders from Hands & Voices who saw a need to address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the community that serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and their families.

The purpose of the **AFFIRM: Leaders of Color Training** was to acknowledge the value, importance, and necessity of diverse leadership. This was a space for leaders to feel empowered, share ideas and resources to create culturally and linguistically relevant information and actionable steps to move forward in the work of supporting families with children who are DHH. Our goal is to put Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility at the center of all Hands & Voices initiatives and to create a sustainable diverse leader-to-leader support thus providing continued support to underserved and underrepresented populations. This session was a first step towards that goal. Allowing a brave space for sharing personal experiences servicing underrepresented communities,

this leadership group found the commonalities of the struggles and inspiration of a support network to continue the work they do. Building a better understanding of the unique challenges and roadblocks of traditionally underserved and underrepresented populations is necessary to drive continued quality improvement efforts and to identify the gaps in systems that affect children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Thank you to all the leaders who participated!

For more information on how to infuse DEIA in your work, refer to the [Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Guidelines: Transforming a Community for all Families with Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#).



Maine's EHDl Focus Increases Family and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Adult Engagement

**By Amber Woodcock, GBYS Coordinator, Maine Hands & Voices
and Karen Hopkins, Executive Director, MECDHH and Principal Investigator of
Maine's HRSA Grant**

Part of creating a holistic service for families is including family perspectives at every discussion. In 2017, Maine made an important change in the HRSA grant administration. Maine's HRSA Grant is now overseen by the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (MECDHH/GBSD). The shift from the Department of Health to MECDDH/GBSD was a conscious decision to increase family engagement and deaf and hard of hearing infusion activities in our northeasternmost state. MECDDH/GBSD had a strong history of family activities and engagement, and this grant created a path to continuous improvement in collaboration for families. Maine's EHDl team consists of representatives from MECDDH/GBSD, The Maine Newborn Hearing Program, Maine's Part C Agency, and the recent addition of Maine Hands & Voices. While Hands & Voices has been instrumental to the success of Maine's grant activities, the formal addition of the Maine GYBS Coordinator to this team ensures a seamless connection and more opportunity for shared planning and shared decision-making by parents.

Parents and deaf and hard of hearing adults have always been included in many aspects of the work of Maine EHDl. Parents and deaf and hard-of-hearing adults are represented on the EHDl Advisory Board. The EHDl Parent Consultant and Quality Improvement Specialist are parents, and both of Maine's EHDl coordinators are also parents of deaf/hard of hearing children, and one is deaf herself. The logical next step was to bring in Maine Hands & Voices/Guide by Your Side Program, to ensure Maine's Family Based Organization was more deeply involved in all aspects of the EHDl Program and could bring intimate knowledge of families served through the Guide program to Maine's EHDl team. Maine's EHDl program is infused with parent leaders and deaf and hard-of-hearing adults.

Recent accomplishments

Maine's EHDl Team developed a variety of branded resources with a focus on supporting family engagement in the earliest interactions of every aspect of the EHDl Process at critical points in the journey. The most important interaction is between parent and child but adding a focus on the earliest interactions between parent and providers has proven to be successful in contributing to positive parent/child connection. Parent-to-parent and deaf and hard of hearing adult involvement is embedded throughout the process. Developing a statewide approach to positive early interactions with families is key.

A [new website](#) creates a space for easy access to comprehensive information that

engages families and professionals in a holistic and collaborative manner. In addition, the Maine EHDI app was developed to partner with the website for instant access to information for families and providers.

With this collaborative team approach and the various resources available to all, families receive the same information regardless of where they live in the state of Maine. Family engagement was a priority in the development of the materials listed below with family partners fully involved in the creation and distribution which offers an opportunity for family engagement with various providers.

- Prenatal Visit: brochure explaining newborn hearing screening
- Refer at Screening:
 1. Guide for next steps, the Earliest Interactions website, Maine EHDI app, a magnet with Maine Hands & Voices information, and a baby rattle, along with the parent consultant's contact information
 2. CMV tip sheet
- Audiology Visit:
 1. Tip Sheets on the audiological process that will be distributed by the GBYS Coordinator to all audiology facilities
 2. Upon diagnosis, a booklet on resources related to the child's individual hearing difference and Maine's resources
- Early Intervention:
 1. Welcome binder
 2. Developmental Milestones and Assessment Parent Portfolio
 3. Exploration of Language and Communication Process Parent Guidebook

Maine's collaborative early intervention process embeds parent-to-parent support (GBYS) and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Support (Deaf/HH Guides and Mentors) into the first few weeks and months of early intervention while families are journeying through the process of exploring language and communication opportunities. The Guides are offered throughout early intervention and at all transitions to ensure parent-to-parent support.

Annually, Camp Discover is a family favorite in Maine! Supported by HRSA grant funds, this camp allows families to connect over a long weekend and learn about the various communication approaches through fun, interactive activities. Deaf and hard-of-hearing adults and Parent Guides lead all camp activities in collaboration with professionals. There is a parent/caregiver chat every evening led by the GBYS Parent Guides that allows for shared reflections and support in a comfortable, safe environment.

In the future, we are hoping to bring back our "Winter Island Getaway" which takes place on the beautiful Mackworth Island in Maine for a mid-winter family gathering focused on family self-care and fun!

We are currently finalizing two projects including a video supporting the exploration of language and communication opportunities with families and the creation of a family roadmap as a refrigerator magnet for easy reference about the process and showing who is who in their families' EHDI process.

This Maine team in collaboration with Maine's audiologists has developed a series of Tip Sheets describing each aspect of audiology testing. Early intervention providers will collaborate to create tip sheets related to language within family routines.

Webinars are being developed that explain the various Maine Hands & Voices Programs:

- What is GBYS?
- What is a Parent Guide?
- What is a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide?

The Maine EHDI team is looking forward to our statewide Collaborative Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference on March 25, 2023. This conference is a collaboration between Maine Hands & Voices, MECDDHH/GBSD, and The Maine Newborn Hearing Program. Parents attend at no cost while professionals pay a nominal fee to attend. In addition, a track for audiologists is offered. Hotel accommodations are provided to families living two hours away or more making this conference more accessible to all families.

In Maine, parent engagement and deaf/hard of hearing infusion matters. Our collaborative team approach ensures families receive consistent and comprehensive information and embeds parents and deaf and hard-of-hearing adults throughout our process.




One of many activities for kids, families and parents at Camp Discover in Maine in October 2022.

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>

Hands & Voices | P.O. Box 3093, Boulder, CO 80307

[Unsubscribe_sara@handsandvoices.org](mailto:unsubscribe_sara@handsandvoices.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!