



Happy Spring from the FL3 Center!

The month of April has us entering the fourth and final year of the current FL3 Center HRSA Cooperative Agreement. Our team has spent time reflecting on year three and planning for exciting new activities in year four.

Here are a few successes from year three to celebrate:

- The FL3 Center developed the [Hands & Voices Online Academy](#), launching three self-paced courses .
- Bi-monthly [FL3 Office Hours](#) held on topics requested by Family Leaders and FBOs
- The development of [Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Guidelines](#)
- The continuation of the quarterly [Leadership Webinar Series](#)
- Over 300 technical assistance responses and much more.



Looking toward year four, we are excited to release Season Two of our [Podcast Series - At the Table](#), unveil a new family support resource tool titled the Family Support Activities Guide that includes suggested focused support activities in the areas of family well-being, knowledge, and empowerment, host the [Annual Leadership Conference](#) to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Oct. 1-3, 2023, and continue many of our ongoing activities (coming up: an Office Hours on the Unique Needs of Fathers) including the [Leadership Book club](#) (updated schedule early May), and more! We are also thrilled to announce the new Hands & Voices D/HH Infusion Coordinators who will be contributing to our FL3 Center work (meet Emily and Elizabeth [here!](#))

We invite you to engage with us at the [FL3 Center](#) throughout the coming year to enhance family engagement, leadership, and to strengthen family support in the EHDI system.

In partnership,

Lisa Kovacs
Hands & Voices FL3 Center Director

Thursday, May 25th, 2023
8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM PT
(One hour)

Unique Needs of Fathers

Facilitators: Dr. Rashaun Davis, DE Hands & Voices, and Nobby Ledoux, NH Hands & Voices

Come discuss the unique needs of fathers of a child who is D/HH and how to support and engage fathers in the EHDI system and beyond.

Audience: All parent and D/HH leaders, Family Based Organizations, and EHDI Stakeholders are welcome.

[Register Here](#)

Can't make this one? Check out future Office Hours [here](#).

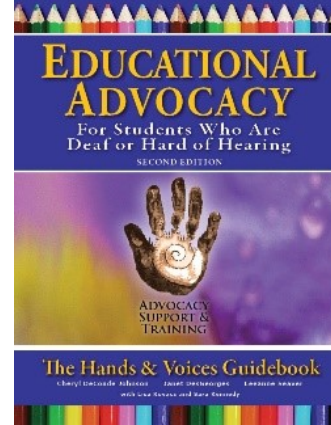
New!
FL3 Parent Tip Sheet Interview:
[Semantics](#)



Dr. Kristina Blaiser, Professor of Speech Language Pathology, Director of the HATCH Lab, Idaho State University, provides insight about activities and resources to increase a child's development in semantics.

Semantics refers to vocabulary knowledge and meaning a child uses in their language and communication, and serves as a basis for more complex language development.

[Click here](#) to find all eight Parent Tip Sheets, more interviews with language experts, and a [Family Activity Plan](#).



Educational Advocacy for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Second Edition

- New chapter on Early Intervention
- Updated Legislative and Policy information

The H&V Guidebook is the essential book for families, advocates, and professionals who support the education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

[Click Here to Order](#)

Spanish edition available late Spring 2023

Western Regional Early Intervention Conference

June 13-15, 2023
Cheyenne, Wyoming

For professionals working with children birth to 5 who are d/hh, blind, visually impaired or deafblind and their families.

Speakers and workshops focus on the most current research, technology, resources and practices in this ever-evolving field.

[Click here](#) for agenda and registration

For more information contact [Leslie Vanorman](#) or call 307-875-9267.

O.U.R. Children's Safety Project

LSL Summer Bucket List

Summer is almost here! With the change in routine, you may be wondering what you can do to make sure you stay consistent with your LSL habits. Summer provides endless opportunities to keep your child on track with listening and ongoing spoken language learning.

[Click here for summer ideas.](#)

Hands & Voices FL3 Leadership Webinar :

Don't Set It and Forget It!
(April 6, 2023)



How do you “set the table” once you have recruited/encouraged new board members, partners, and volunteers to join your organization and systems work? Effective onboarding encourages confidence and contributes to productive involvement by providing key tools, connections, and organizational culture right from the start. Practical tips and intentional strategies to harness the value of that new person and their enthusiasm that brought them to the organization in the first place are shared in the recording.

[Click here to view and download slides.](#)



Explore Your Future EYF

[Explore Your Future \(EYF\)](#) is a six-

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023
**12 PM ET/11 AM CT/
10 AM MT/9 AM PT**

Integrating Safety into O.U.R. Work
Prevention and response to childhood safety issues are not a “when we can get to that” activity. How can parent support organizations better integrate safety into their daily work with families, systems, and developing new parent leaders?

[Click here](#) to register.

[Click here](#) for upcoming topics on the second Tuesday of the month thru June 2023.



[Registration Now Open](#)

2023 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference “From Why to How: Dive IN!”

Sunday, October 1, 2023 – Tuesday,
October 3, 2023

Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan
Hosted by Michigan Hands & Voices

[General Information](#)

[Agenda and Presenters](#)



Gallaudet Summer Youth Camps and Programs 2023

Summer Youth Camps and Programs are designed for middle and high

day career exploration program at Rochester Institute of Technology for college-bound deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students who will begin their junior or senior year in fall 2023. This program focuses on personal growth and career awareness for students as they begin to think about college.

Session I: July 8-13, 2023
Session II: July 15-20, 2023

[Click here](#) for more information and to apply.



MOOG Center Language Calendar

The Moog Center for Deaf Education posts a Language Calendar each month. These calendars provide parents, caregivers, and professionals with daily ideas for meaningful activities to do at home or school with children. The activities promote language development and are carefully designed by experts in early intervention, listening and spoken language, and audiology.

[Current Language Calendar](#)

If you are interested in previously posted Language Calendars, please contact [Betsy Moog Brooks](#).

school students up to the age of 19. Our programs provide exciting summer learning and experiential opportunities against the backdrop of a world-class bilingual environment just minutes away from the U.S. Capitol.

[Click here for camps and registration.](#)



2023 Ear Community Microtia and Atresia Summer Family Picnics

Ear Community hosts picnics every year around the world helping bring Microtia and Atresia families together. This year's picnics will take place in the United States in San Mateo, California/ Raleigh, North Carolina/ Plano, Texas/ Belmont, Massachusetts/ Nashville, Tennessee/ and Hamilton, Ontario Canada!

[Click here for dates and locations.](#)

Autism Prevalence Report

The American Academy of Pediatrics released a [video](#) about the recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [Report on Autism](#). From 2020 data, among 8-year-old children, one in 36 have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This is up from one in 44 children with ASD in 2018. The prevalence of autism in children who are deaf/hard of hearing is known to be higher than the population of hearing children. Early identification is key to getting families and children support to understand a child's language and learning differences. [Click here](#) for full report.

CHAMPS-DHH: study on a strengths-based parenting support program for families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Please share this information through your family-based organization network.

Are you the parent or guardian of a 3–6-year-old

child who is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and who has a hearing aid or cochlear implant?

Researchers are learning about a strengths-based parenting program provided to parents of DHH children by other parents of DHH children. Parents will complete research assessments every 6 months for up to 2 years, and children will be involved once per year. Families will receive up to \$150/year for their time. About half of the families will also participate in the parenting program. All activities will happen online, and the friendly research staff will work around your schedule!



CHAMPS DHH

This study is led by Tina Staudt, PhD and is supported by the National Institutes of Health -- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Building better support for families with kids who are deaf or hard of hearing and use hearing aids, cochlear implants, or bone conduction devices!



College of Medicine
An Equal Opportunity University

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

Learn more about the study [here](#). Or contact by [email](#) or phone: (859) 218-2018.



Book Review Submitted by Sara Kennedy

Remedies for Sorrow *An Extraordinary Child, a Secret Kept from Pregnant Women, and a Mother's Pursuit of the Truth* by Megan Nix

Like her daughter's unusual gaze as a newborn, Nix investigates with an unwavering focus the most common virus that pregnant mothers do not know about. In this complex family memoir of science, faith, and advocacy, Nix grows into "motherhood...with its own authority," calling out the paternalism so often found in medicine. She brings us the daily hard and beautiful of families raising (and losing) children with CMV, from Colorado to Alaska, to presentations and Zoom meetings, with surprise encounters along the way. Connecting with other parents, denied to families without a diagnosis, *is* treatment. Telling family stories, a clarion call to screening legislation, and full disclosure about CMV are other remedies, helping us imagine halting the viral damage to cells with the lyrical *hesed*--a call to contribute to society-- in these pages. Available [here](#).

Release date: April 18, 2023



ALLY'S ACT has been reintroduced and we need everyone's help advocating for this bill to pass!

New House Bill number is: **H.R. 2439**
New Senate Bill number is: **S. 1135**

All updated information is on Ear Community's website under the Ally's Act menu tab.
www.EarCommunity.org



National Bill Reintroduced for Hearing Device Coverage

Ally's Act ([H.R. 2439](#) and [S. 1135](#)) was reintroduced by Representative Joe Neguse (CO) on March 30, 2023 along with sponsors Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), Mike Thompson (CA), and

Senate leads Shelley Moore Capito (WV) and Elizabeth Warren (MA). The bill ensures coverage for osseointegrated devices (OIDs), sometimes denied as not medically necessary or excluded from private insurance plans. The bill would amend the Affordable Care Act and other laws to create private insurance coverage for these devices for those who need them from birth to age 64.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Direct Referrals and Co-Training Benefit Families in Michigan EHDI System By Tori McIntosh, Michigan GBYS Coordinator

Michigan EHDI (MI EHDI) and Michigan Hands & Voices (MIHV) have a history of collaboration and commitment to supporting families in an unbiased manner, with common goals of increasing family enrollment in both family-to-family support by six months of age and deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) adult-to-family support by nine months of age. As a direct result of this collaborative partnership, Michigan families of DHH children are supported by Parent Guides and DHH Guides in a variety of creative and meaningful ways.

With a direct referral system in place, the coordinator of the Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program reaches out to families after their child has been identified as DHH. When a family accepts Guide services, the coordinator purposefully selects their Parent Guide. MIHV has intentionally built (and continues to expand) the Parent Guide team to reflect the diversity of Michigan, and the variety of journeys families navigate following diagnosis. For example, Guides on the team have experience with hearing aids and cochlear implants, listening and spoken language, ASL, and Cued speech. Guides who are fluent in Arabic, Spanish, and Urdu, as well as a Guide with DHH plus additional disabilities experience are available. Having a diverse team of Parent Guides enables MIHV to meet families' unique needs and support them in meaningful ways.

A current goal of the program is to continue to further develop the DHH Guide program and enroll more families in direct DHH adult-to-family support. There are currently eight DHH Guides on staff, with a wide variety of lived experiences (including differences in hearing diagnoses and technology used, language and communication preferences, educational backgrounds, etc.). Having this range of perspectives is invaluable to offer families of DHH children.

Many new families are nervous about meeting with DHH adults. Parent Guides help to bridge the gap, lessen these nerves and connect families with their DHH Guides. A family's Parent Guide is their trusted bridge to Chapter activities and to DHH Guides. A Parent Guide walks alongside new parents on their journey, at their pace.

Benefits of Co-Training

To facilitate family-DHH Guide connections, the GBYS-DHH Guide Program recently held a training weekend led by Candace Lindow-Davies and Stephanie Olson from Hands & Voices Headquarters, with financial support from Michigan EHDI/HRSA Carryover Funds. The goal: building connections between our Parent Guides and DHH Guides, learning each other's stories and strategizing how to effectively promote the DHH Guide program to Michigan families. To illustrate the success of this training, three DHH Guide visits occurred in the weeks following training. This is already a significant jump from the seven

families enrolled in DHH Guide visits throughout 2022. Parent Guides worked on fine-tuning their listening and messaging skills. With an increased familiarity with the experiences and stories of the DHH Guides, they are now able to connect more intentionally with their families. For example, Guides might say, "I hear your concerns about your child playing sports - I have a DHH Guide that can talk to you about his experiences! Or, "You are wondering what it was like to wear hearing aids and attend a mainstream school? I have the perfect person for you to talk to!"






Michigan Hands & Voices DHH Guides and Parent Guides at Winter 2023 Co-training

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>

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