



**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



LAURENT CLERC  
NATIONAL DEAF EDUCATION CENTER

### **Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

This web-based product Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a collaborative effort between the Clerc Center and Boston Children's Hospital for



Greetings!

We recently hosted our 15th Annual Leadership Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This year's conference theme was "A Place at the Table" and brought together individuals from all over the United States, the U.S. Territories, and Canada to develop skills and receive training on how to provide leadership to others and affect systemic change where they

early intervention providers, educators of deaf children, early childhood specialists, allied professionals, parents, and other caregivers.

Seven modules are provided to share information critical to promoting early language acquisition for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This product is available in American Sign Language and spoken English, both with closed captions.

[To learn more visit the Clerc Center website.](#)



### Two Free Interactive Online Courses

For nearly two decades, NICHQ has used quality improvement (QI) methodology to help state and community teams turn ideas into action, reach specific goals, and create effective, sustainable change.

#### Quality Improvement 101:

This digital course is the first step in understanding the fundamentals of QI methodology, from aim statements to Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles. Users will gain a robust understanding of how they can use QI to lead change initiatives in their communities. [Take the course.](#)

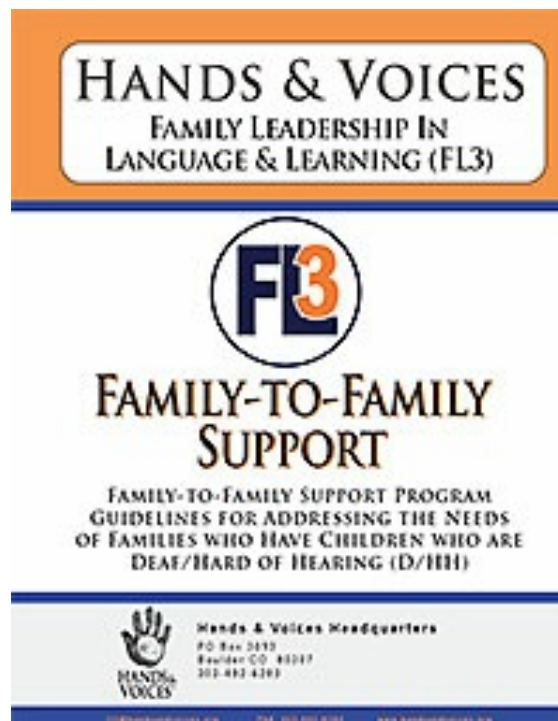
live. We hope that you will consider attending next year's conference September 20-22, 2019 in Washington D.C.

The Leadership Conference offers an opportunity for parents, D/HH Adults, and professionals to come together to learn more on a variety of topics. An important topic every year at the conference is centered around parent-to-parent support.

Every family with a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing has a different and valuable story to tell, while sharing a special common bond with other families. Parents who are just beginning the journey can be supported and learn from parents with lived experiences of the joys and challenges of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. There is something incredibly unique and important in receiving support from other parents and families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing and have "been there." This support is called family-to-family or parent-to-parent. You can learn more about family-to-family support by checking out the resources on this topic on the [FL3 website](#).

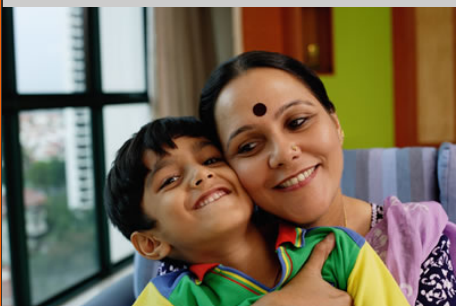
As always, if you have questions or need help please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can direct any FL3 questions to the [FL3 Team](#)

Warm wishes,  
The FL3 Team



### Family-to-Family Support Program Guidelines Guidelines for Establishing and Maintaining Family-to-Family Support Programs for Families who Have Children who are Deaf / Hard of Hearing (D/HH)

**Quality Improvement 102:** Completed QI 101? Get started with QI 102, the next step in understanding and implementing improvement best practices. You'll learn how to move confidently from one PDSA cycle to another, testing your improvement ideas to increase their impact. [Take the course.](#)

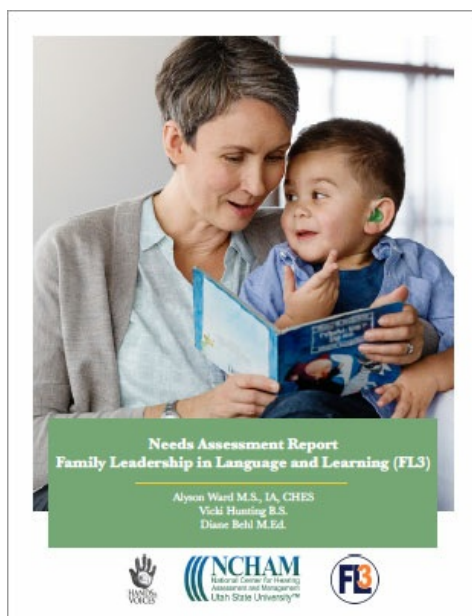


Creating a family-to-family support program to serve families with children who are (D/HH) can be a challenging endeavor and requires careful planning, execution and evaluation. Programs must be built on the foundation of respect for informed parent decision-making and delivery of unbiased information to families.

Whether you currently are operating a family-to-family support program with or without parent expertise in D/HH focused services and/or you are seeking to implement a program, we hope you find the guidelines informative and insightful. The Guidelines are designed as a resource for those interested in playing an active role in the development and implementation of high quality, sustainable parent-to-parent support unique for parents who have children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH). We believe underscoring core components of appropriate programming specifically for this population will provide consistent D/HH-focused support for all families.

The intended primary audience of these Guidelines are state/territory community organizations and organizers who wish to implement a family-to-family support program. (Hands & Voices chapters and programs such as the H&V Guide By your Side (GBYS) program already have written specific guiding principles and operating policies and procedures of which they follow).

[View the Guidelines.](#)



## Have You Checked Out the National Needs Assessment?

H&V recently completed a comprehensive national needs assessment to guide its work on meeting the objectives of the FL3 program, a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The needs assessment was designed to take an in-depth look at the needs of families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH), family-based support organizations, and state/territory EHDI programs in their ability to work in partnership to improve the EHDI service system. H&V contracted with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) at Utah State University to conduct these efforts.

Information learned from this needs assessment will be used by the FL3 to build a portfolio of trainings, educational materials, resources, etc., to support family partnership, engagement, and leadership within the EHDI system; and to inform and shape support, family education, and mentorship activities. The needs assessment results provide input to the following questions from three target populations; parents with children who are D/HH age 0-6, family-based organizations, and EHDI Coordinators):

- What types of support did families receive or wish they had when their child was diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing?
- What do family support organizations need from the FL3 program to better serve families who have a child who is D/HH?
- What are the supports EHDI programs need for effective family engagement in ensuring the EHDI programs meet the needs of all families of children who are or are at risk for being D/HH?

We encourage families with children who are D/HH, state/territory EHDI programs, and family-based support organizations to use this information to inform the work that they do so that together we may improve the outcomes of children who are D/HH.

[View the full report.](#)

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**Hands & Voices FL3 Project**

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