



Hello from Hands & Voices and the Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center,

We hope this edition of the FL3 Center E-News finds you having time to enjoy the fall season. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, it is a wonderful time to consider what we are thankful for. Here at the FL3 Center, we have so much to be thankful for:



- An incredible community of parent leaders across the US states and territories
- Professionals who encourage and fully support our work as Parent Leaders
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults who willingly share their valuable lived experiences to influence and guide our work
- An EHDI system that recognizes the importance of family engagement, leadership, and support
- Leadership at HRSA and the opportunity to be a part of their coordinated portfolio of programs to support the EHDI system
- Our partners, there are too many to name individually, but please know we are so thankful for the ability to work alongside each of you
- All families, the uniqueness of each family story continues to guide and motivate us towards continuous systemic improvements

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the [FL3 Center](#). We are here for you!

Wishing you all a beautiful Fall season and I hope you get a moment to breathe deep and reflect on the blessings that surround us in our work with families and their children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

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



The Newborn Screening Family Education Program ([Navigate Newborn Screening](#)), a core program of Expecting Health, is dedicated to supporting families through their newborn screening journeys. We know that the pandemic and other emergencies have impacted how we receive and navigate the healthcare system. It's important that we share information, resources, and tools that can help you adapt



## AAP- EHDI News

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program is proud to announce [Nationwide Children's Hospital](#) as an Innovative and Promising Practice,

to the changing system and support you in making the right decisions for your family.

[Click here for more information.](#)



[The American School for the Deaf \(ASD\)](#) has developed an *Online Academy*, an accessible online education platform designed specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students anywhere in the world. Initially [Online Academy](#) will offer part-time core curriculum classes to supplement a student's current educational programs; however, in the future, the *Online Academy* will include diverse course and curriculum offerings, to become a comprehensive full-time online program, with extracurricular activities, support services, and more. The *Online Academy* will be a flexible program, fitting the needs of each student: a primary source of education, supplement to a student's current public or private school education, or access to tutoring opportunities.

[For more information click here.](#)

## NTRC Quality Improvement Learning Modules

[National Technical Resource Center's Quality Improvement \(QI\) Learning Modules](#) are four 15-to-25-minute modules that are meant to provide a good base in QI, to show how to use this methodology to improve EHDI systems of care, and to learn from EHDI Program staff. For more information, [email Alyson Ward](#).



**FL3 Office Hours – CHANGE IN DATE**  
(Previously scheduled for November 18th)

**FL3 Office Hours**  
**Thursday, November 11th, 2021**  
11 – 12 PM MT

Audience: Family Leaders and FBOs

“Relationship Building at the State/Territory

focused on systems of care for children and families who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). The Ohio Department of Health formed an audiology work group to develop guidelines for diagnostic centers who provide infant audiologic assessment recognizing the growing issue of reduced follow-up after referral on the newborn hearing screening due to severe restriction of outpatient services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the second in a series of practices sharing innovative tools and strategies to support families of children who are D/HH. Strategies for how pediatricians can support this work are highlighted. For more information on the AAP EHDI program, [click here](#). To learn about replicating this Innovative and Promising Practice in your practice [contact AAP EHDI](#).

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program is proud to announce [The Center for Family Involvement](#) as an Innovative and Promising Practice, focused on systems of care for children and families who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). This Virginia-based family advocacy organization uses a “localization” process to disseminate information about the state EHDI program to parents/caregivers from LatinX heritages. Through this process, LatinX families identified preferences regarding how information was communicated and delivered. This is the first in a series of practices sharing innovative tools and strategies to support families of children who are D/HH. Strategies for how pediatricians can support this work are highlighted.



## CMV and Newborn Hearing Screening Brochures

The [National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management \(NCHAM\)](#) and the [National CMV Foundation](#) have partnered in developing a Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Newborn Hearing Screening educational brochure for widespread dissemination. To request copies of these brochures, please complete the survey [here](#) to provide your contact information.

Level” - What are successful ideas for forging strong partnerships between family support programs and community stakeholders?



Facilitated by Teri Urban, Chairperson from Virginia H&V.

Captioning Provided. Please email [Candace](#) by November 4th for any other communication access requests.

[Register here](#)

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### Past FL3 Office Hours Strategies and Resources

[Click here](#) to see the latest summaries of strategies and resources shared at sessions since May 2021. Topics include “Timely Enrollment to Family Support Services,” “Parent Leader and DHH Adult Recruitment,” and “Strengths and Challenges of Providing Support to Rural and Remote Communities.”

ASL Connect is intended to be a central resource for learning ASL and about Deaf Studies online, with all content created by Deaf ASL-fluent scholars. We offer ways to learn some basic ASL online to get you started, and then we offer highly engaging and interactive ASL and Deaf Studies courses online.

[Click here](#) for information on free online courses and advanced ASL courses.



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### FL3 Parent Tip Sheets NEW Family Activity Plan and Video Interviews

The **8 FL3 Parent Tip Sheets** now include a “**Family Activity Plan**.” Parents can work with their child’s Early Intervention provider to focus on various language, literacy and social emotional development skills covered in the Tip Sheets and use the worksheet to schedule activities in everyday routines.

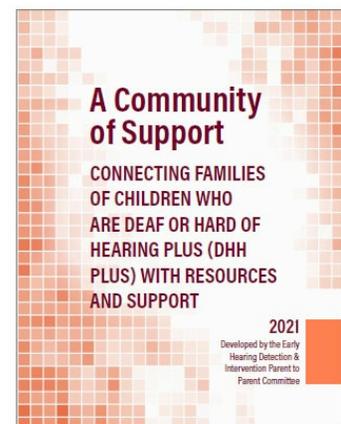
Recorded video interviews (captioned) with experts discussing the Tip Sheets, strategies and resources are available [here](#). Two new interviews with Dr. Christie Yoshinaga-Itano on “Phonology” and “Syntax and Morphology” are now available. Watch for more to come!



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### New Resource Guide for Families of Children who are DHH Plus

[“Connecting Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Plus \(DHH Plus\) with Resources and Support”](#)\* was developed by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Parent to Parent Committee, for families who have children who are DHH Plus, because we know that supporting our child’s ability to reach their individual potential is at the heart of the issue in the journey of raising a child who is DHH Plus. Knowing that approximately 35-40% (Gallaudet Research Institute, 2011) of children who are DHH also have additional/other needs, the combined effect of hearing loss with additional needs presents a unique and complex challenge to professionals and

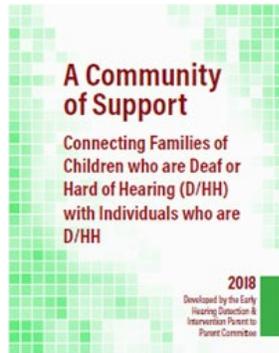


parents.

The purpose of this guide is to ensure that:

- Your family knows how, where, and why to access expertise, resources and information for your child who is DHH Plus.
- To share information about the benefits and availability of connections to other families and adults who are DHH Plus, so you know you are not alone.
- To assert your right to have high expectations for your child.

*\*This Guide was developed by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD) Parent to Parent Committee, which is an interdisciplinary, inter-agency/ inter-organizational and diverse parent/professional group. This committee is open to anyone who is interested – professionals, parents, DHH adults. For more information contact [Janet DesGeorges](#), Co-chair for this committee*



## **Guidebook: Community of Support – Connecting Families of Children who are D/HH with Individuals who are D/HH**

All families, regardless of degree of hearing loss/level or communication/language of their child, should have the opportunity to interact and learn from D/HH Adults. This may include formal to informal interaction, from high level interactivity to low. This guidebook was developed by the EHD Parent-to-Parent Committee which is comprised of diverse professionals and parents. The goals for the Guidebook are:

- To share information about the positive aspects of connecting families with deaf and hard of hearing adults and community members.
- To describe several ways systems can provide and facilitate these connections. These approaches can be used in any combination, and they can be used at different points in a family's experience. Families should be able to choose the combination(s) that suit their situation.

[Click here](#) for more information.



### **Meeting the Challenge: A Road Map to Success!**

*Submitted by Guam's Positive Parents Together and Guam EHD Programs*

Guam is no stranger to disasters. 2020 has proved to be a year of challenges for most states and territories due to the pandemic. Sometimes challenges offer opportunities to expose vulnerabilities and force us to find alternatives to providing services in ways we would never have imagined. 2020 was that year! Guam EHD worked with its partners to fill the vulnerable gaps due to the government shutdowns and strict guidelines for social distancing.

Some solutions to meet the challenges included: tracking babies who did not pass the initial hearing screening and continued referral to early intervention by the public hospital; a formalized referral process for Guam Early Intervention System and Guam(GEIS) and Guam Hearing Doctors (GHD) to connect a parent of an infant newly identified with a hearing loss with Guam's Positive Parents Together (GPPT) our family partner; the development of training videos, locally produced American Sign Language (ASL) videos, EHD PSA featuring the audiologist consultant, and a commercial providing awareness about GPPT; outdoor banners located strategically in highly populated villages and the Free COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic spearheaded by the Guam National Guard which served as the largest vaccine distribution center for the island; indoor banners located a private birthing center and the WIC Office; the production of a Shared Plan of

Care Journal; a media outreach campaign through the local newspapers, text blasts, Facebook, You Tube, television airing of GPPT and Guam EHDl Public Service Announcements, and live radio interviews featuring Guam EHDl and its partners; resuming outpatient hearing screening for babies born at the public hospital; providing DAEs to infants; and providing telehealth services to families.

The program would like to highlight the EHDl Shared Plan of Care Journal. The purpose of the EHDl Shared Plan of Care (SPoC) Journal is to help families navigate through the hearing screening process with ease, to assist parent(s)/caregiver(s) track and monitor their child's growth and development, to provide families with the tools to become advocates for their child and to quickly find the appropriate services for the child identified with a hearing loss. In addition, the EHDl Journal provides families with contact information of agencies, service providers, nonprofit family support groups, activities to encourage language and speech development, and parent reflections on raising a child with hearing loss, as well as the DHH adult perspective.

It is meant to be used throughout the child's first three years in the EI system. When a child is diagnosed with hearing loss, the audiologist fills in the child's hearing information in the EHDl SPoC Journal. The family brings this journal to the pediatrician/primary care physician to fill out the child's medical history. This document is also brought to the IFSP meeting for the team to share and include intervention information. The journal has a perpetual calendar to keep track of appointments, meetings, and other events. The journal is utilized by GPPT for future training sessions with parents and paired with videos produced by EHDl that relate to information in the SPoC.

*Guam EHDl would like to acknowledge the contributors to the content of the EHDl SPoC Journal. A "Dangkalu na si Yu'os ma'ase' and thank you" to Trisha Suzuki, Jamae Quenga, Evelyn & Wil Topasna, Ann Marie & John Cruz, Tasha Cruz, the Central Institute for the Deaf – CID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hands & Voices. Funding for these products and activities was made possible through a reallocation of HRSA funds, Supplemental HRSA funds, a grant award from ACHMP, and funding from CORE.*



## Hearing First "Living LSL" Live Webinar

### "Talk, Read, Sing: Grow Your Child's Brain"

**Wednesday, November 3rd  
11 AM MT**

Wondering how to grow your child's brain and get them ready for school, friends, and life? It's YOU! As a parent, your interactions with your child helps to build their brain. Dr. Carol Flexer will share ways you can set them up for success through language building and development of important social skills.

[Register Here](#)



## Updated EHDl-PALS Resources

The EHDl-PALS [Website/Directory](#) has been improved and updated, including:

- Cosmetic overhaul of the look and feel of the entire website
- New professional facility search portal
- Family Resources section overhaul. (Spanish translation coming soon)
- Updated EHDl Program staff tools and navigation
- New "Link to Us" page with a variety of badges along with downloadable materials so that other websites can have stylish links to EHDl PALS

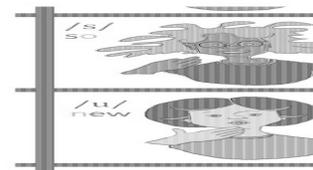
For more information,  
[Click Here](#)



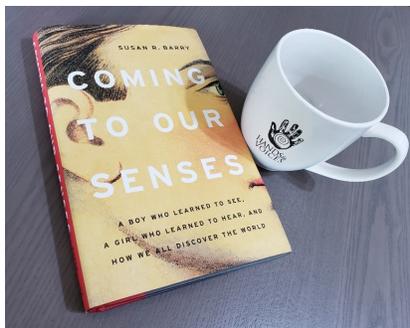
The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) now offers seasonal-themed **Deaf Children's Literacy Project (DCLP) Children's Kits** with activities to support children learning Cued American English. Families who receive a free DCLP Parent Kit are able to order one FREE seasonal DCLP Children's Kit, and purchase the other three seasonal DCLP Children's Kits at half-price at the [Cue College Cue Store](#). Families may sign up for the free kit by filling out the form on the [DCLP webpage](#) of the [NCSA website](#). The first seasonal kit, *Cue With Me in the Fall!*, includes language-based games (Memory and I Spy), over 40 flashcards, manipulatives, rhyming skills worksheets, a curated book list, and reference materials.



The NCSA has a new **Cues of American English Poster** available for purchase in the [Cue College Cue Store](#). This 24" x 36", double-sided poster contains illustrated cuers modeling the 40 phonemes of American English.



Each square is an individual character in a sample word context, a character of a phoneme used in correct mouth



### Book Review *Coming to Our Senses*, by Susan R. Barry Candace Lindow-Davies

“When Liam and Zohra first gained a new sense, they were bombarded with novel sensations—colors and lines, a cacophony of sounds—which were disembodied and meaningless. Both had to retrain the way they took in their surroundings, reorder their perceptual world, and rewire the networks in their brain. In short, they had to learn a new way of being.” Susan Barry, professor emeritus of biology and neuroscience at Mount Holyoke College, shares the experiences of two individuals, Liam McCoy who was almost blind since infancy and Zohra Damji who was profoundly deaf since birth. Woven through their stories are references to research, tales of others who have regained vision and hearing, as well as Barry’s own journey to developing stereovision. Keen insight to what children who are deaf may potentially encounter and the importance of love and support that helps them become successful adults.

### 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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