

Quarterly News & Updates
1st Quarter 2022



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

I am honored to share some exciting work we have been doing.

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness ([NCDB](#)) has been collaborating with Hands & Voices to forge relationships at the local, state, and national levels. Our goal is to help families feel more supported, provide cross referrals, and co-create products. Providing multiple and diverse opportunities for families to connect with each other and to find the right fit for their family and needs is essential to enhancing the quality of life for families with children who are DHH, Deaf-Blind or Deaf Plus. Why would we limit connections for families? Families can and should decide where they feel comfortable, what that connection looks like, and how/if that connection is sustained.



Illinois Hands & Voices shared an example of how they partner with their local Deaf-Blind Project. *"IL H&V looks to the Project for advice and information on vision and deaf-blindness issues. Project staff are invited to help plan conferences and recently created requested deaf-blind video content for the Illinois EHDI website. Project Reach looks to H&V staff for support and advice on early intervention issues. No formal agreements regarding co-referrals at this time, but Guide By Your Side (GBYS) information has been distributed by the Project at parent events."*

There is a Deaf-Blind Project in each state (as well as in Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Pacific Basin, and the Virgin Islands). They provide training and consultation, or "technical assistance," to help educators, related service providers, and families gain the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective intervention. [Find your local Project here.](#)

The state Deaf-Blind Projects and NCDB collaborate as the Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance (TA) Network, which receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education to improve educational results for children who are deaf-blind, age birth through 21. NCDB also has an extensive [website](#) with an ["Info Center"](#) containing information about educational practices as well as a special ["For Families"](#) section. We encourage you to take a peek and connect with this wonderful network.

In partnership,

[Terri Patterson](#), FL3 Center

Director of Chapter Support, Hands & Voices



Thank you for the outpouring of generosity on Giving Tuesday. We are so grateful for your support of deaf and hard of hearing children around the world.

Hands & Voices Leadership Book Club
Friday, January 21st, 2022
3 PM ET/2 PM CT/1 PM MT/12 PM PT
(One hour)

Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change, by William Bridges (208 pages).

FL3 Office Hours
Thursday, January 27th, 2022
8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM PT
(One hour)

"Developing a Communications Plan" – Learn about tools and templates for creating an

H&V Facilitators: Janet DesGeorges and Jody Olson

The business world is constantly transforming. When restructures, mergers, bankruptcies, and layoffs hit the workplace, employees and managers naturally find the resulting situational shifts to be challenging. But the psychological transitions that accompany them are even more stressful. Organizational transitions affect people; it is always people, rather than a company, who must embrace a new situation and carry out the corresponding change.

As veteran business consultant William Bridges explains, transition is successful when employees have a purpose, a plan, and a part to play. This guide is now updated to reflect the challenges of today's ever-changing, always-on, and globally connected workplaces. This expanded edition of the classic bestseller provides practical, step-by-step strategies for minimizing disruptions and navigating uncertain times.

[Register Here](#)



[Cue College](#) is offering a new instructor-led, 4-week, online course teaching the entire Cued Speech system for American English.

Visit [Cue College Courses](#) for more information and/or to register for "CS101 - Introduction to Cued American English (Instructor-led)".

Visit here for one-on-one online tutoring services and products for practicing cueing skills.



AG Bell LEAP and LOFT Programs

[LEAP](#) is a free **virtual** program to help teens gain confidence in virtual environments, develop stronger self-advocacy skills, and connect with new friends.

Session 1: January 21 - 22, 2022
Session 2: March 6, 2022 (one day program)
Session 3: May 6 - 7, 2022
Session 4: July 8 - 9, 2022
Session 5: September 23 - 24, 2022

[Apply Here](#). Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Space is limited to 50 teens per session.

[LOFT](#) is a **four-day sleep-away** program designed for students to develop or strengthen skills in individual leadership, teamwork, group dynamics, communication, and self-advocacy.

Session 1: July 24 - 28, 2022
Session 2: July 30 - August 3, 2022

organized and coordinated plan to effectively deliver information to your target audiences.

Facilitated by Teresa Banda, Executive Director of Texas Hands & Voices

Captioning Provided. Please email [Candace](#) by January 20th for any other communication access requests.

[Register Here](#)

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."



2022 Family Leadership in EHDI Programs Award

Nominations are invited for the Family Leadership in EHDI Programs to be presented at the [2022 National EHDI Conference in Cincinnati, OH March 13-15th, 2022](#). [Registration](#) now open for the 2022 EHDI Conference.

Nominees must meet all of the following criteria: parent or family member of a child who is DHH, actively involved in their state's EHDI system and has made important contributions to EHDI-related policies, procedures, and/or improved services.

To nominate someone, a nomination form and a 500-word essay that describes their impact is required.

[Click here for important details.](#) Nominations due January 29th, 2022



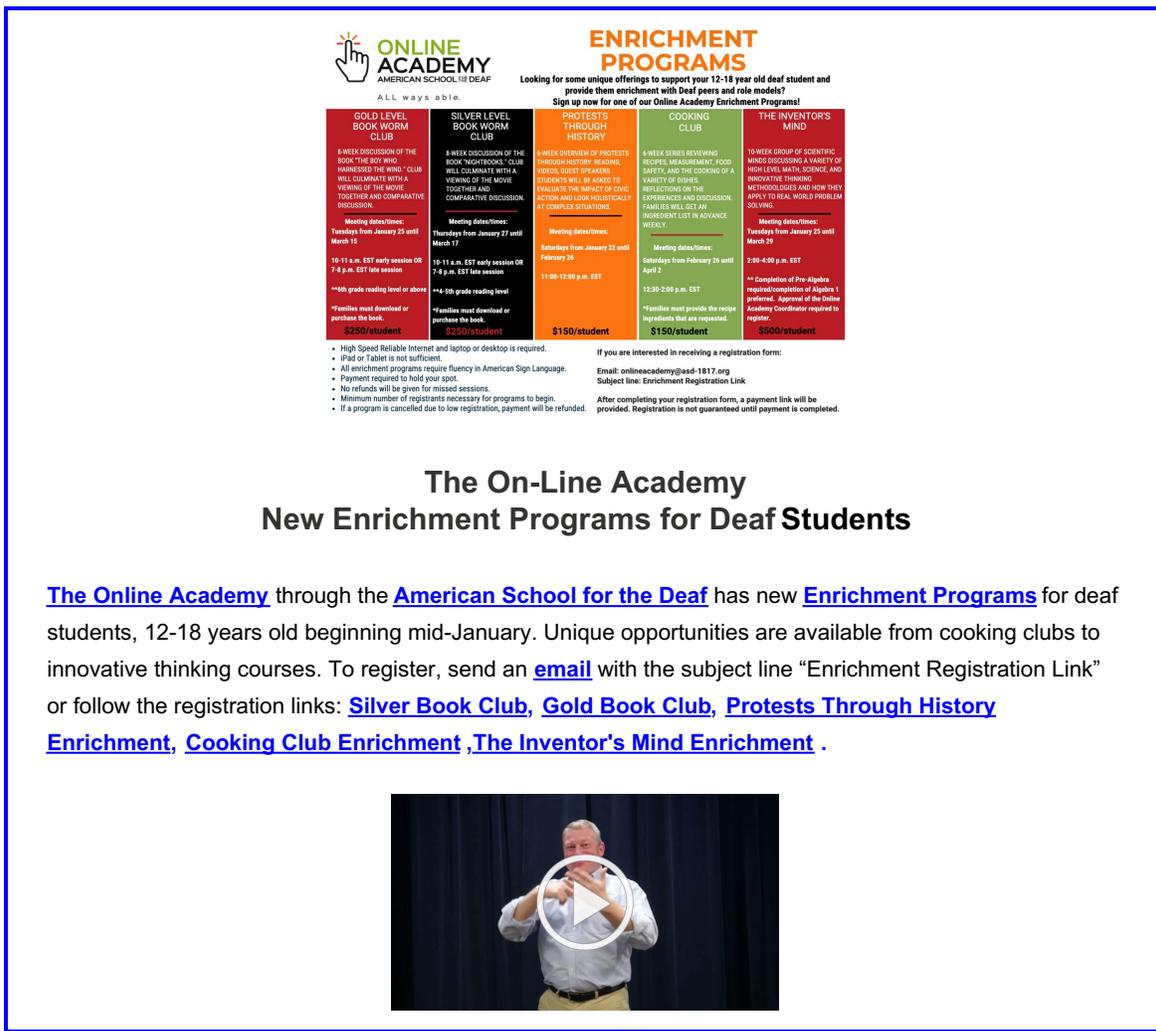
Explore Your Future (EYF) is a six-day career exploration program at Rochester Institute of Technology for college-bound deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students who will begin their junior or senior year in fall 2022. This program focuses on personal growth and career

Application deadline February 25th. Click here for more information.

awareness for students as they begin to think about college.

Program Dates 2022
Session I: July 9-14, 2022
Session II: July 16-21, 2022

Click here for more information.



ONLINE ACADEMY
AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
ALL ways able.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Looking for some unique offerings to support your 12-18 year old deaf student and provide them enrichment with Deaf peers and role models?
Sign up now for one of our Online Academy Enrichment Programs!

GOLD LEVEL BOOK WORM CLUB 8-WEEK DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK "THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND." CLUB WILL CELEBRATE WITH A VIEWING OF THE MOVIE TOGETHER AND COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION. Meeting dates/times: Tuesdays from January 25 until March 15 10-11 a.m. EST early session OR 7-8 p.m. EST late session **High grade reading level or above *Families must download or purchase the book. \$250/student	SILVER LEVEL BOOK WORM CLUB 8-WEEK DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK "PROTESTS." CLUB WILL CELEBRATE WITH A VIEWING OF THE MOVIE TOGETHER AND COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION. Meeting dates/times: Thursdays from January 27 until March 17 10-11 a.m. EST early session OR 7-8 p.m. EST late session **High grade reading level *Families must download or purchase the book. \$250/student	PROTESTS THROUGH HISTORY 8-WEEK OVERVIEW OF PROTESTS THROUGH HISTORY. READING, VIDEO, QUIZ SPEAKERS. STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF CIVIC ACTION AND OUR PROTESTERS AT COMPLEX SITUATIONS. Meeting dates/times: Saturdays from January 22 until February 25 11:00-12:00 p.m. EST \$150/student	COOKING CLUB 8-WEEK SERIES REVIEWING RECIPES, MEASUREMENT, FOOD SAFETY AND THE COOKING OF A VARIETY OF DISHES. REFLECTIONS ON THE EXPERIENCES AND DISCUSSION. FAMILIES WILL GET AN INGREDIENT LIST IN ADVANCE WEEKLY. Meeting dates/times: Saturdays from February 26 until April 2 12:30-2:00 p.m. EST *Families must provide the recipe ingredients that are requested. \$150/student	THE INVENTOR'S MIND 10-WEEK GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC MINDS DISCUSSING A VARIETY OF HIGH LEVEL MATH, SCIENCE, AND INNOVATIVE THINKING METHODOLOGIES AND HOW THEY APPLY TO REAL WORLD PROBLEM SOLVING. Meeting dates/times: Tuesdays from January 25 until March 19 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST ** Completion of Pre-Algebra registration/consideration of Algebra I preferred. Approval of the Online Academy Coordinator required to register. \$500/student
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- High Speed Reliable Internet and laptop or desktop is required.
- iPad or Tablet is not sufficient.
- All enrichment programs require fluency in American Sign Language.
- Payment required to hold your spot.
- No refunds will be given for missed sessions.
- Minimum number of registrants necessary for programs to begin.
- If a program is cancelled due to low registration, payment will be refunded.

If you are interested in receiving a registration form:
Email: onlineacademy@asd-1817.org
Subject line: Enrichment Registration Link

After completing your registration form, a payment link will be provided. Registration is not guaranteed until payment is completed.

The On-Line Academy New Enrichment Programs for Deaf Students

[The Online Academy](#) through the [American School for the Deaf](#) has new [Enrichment Programs](#) for deaf students, 12-18 years old beginning mid-January. Unique opportunities are available from cooking clubs to innovative thinking courses. To register, send an [email](#) with the subject line "Enrichment Registration Link" or follow the registration links: [Silver Book Club](#), [Gold Book Club](#), [Protests Through History](#), [Enrichment](#), [Cooking Club Enrichment](#), [The Inventor's Mind Enrichment](#).



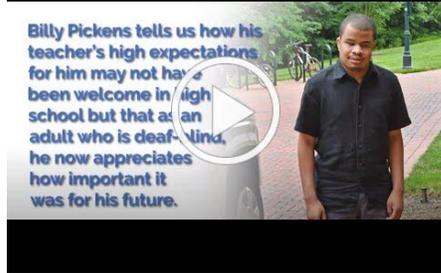
The Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) at Gallaudet University provides information on American Sign Language and bilingualism for families with deaf and hard of hearing children. [Programs, research, and resources available here.](#)



Families Voices United to End Racism Against Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) and their Families (FAMU) website was created to begin the important work of dismantling racism, increase cultural competence, and build meaningful engagement with families. For more information about the toolkit, [click here.](#)

4th Annual Midwest Transition Institute
Deaf-Blind Projects Support Accessible,
Virtual Connections to Transition

[National Center on DeafBlindness](#) (NCDB) and 10 state deaf-blind projects hosted the 4th Annual Midwest Transition Institute, bringing together young adults who are deaf-blind and their families. Click here to find out what it took to ensure accessibility for all at



Billy Pickens Video

In this @K12PROGRESS *Stories from the Classroom* video, Billy Pickens, who is deaf-blind, explains how his teacher's high expectations were not always welcome in high school. Now as a successful adult, he appreciates having been held to that high standard



Marion Downs Center Research - For Parents

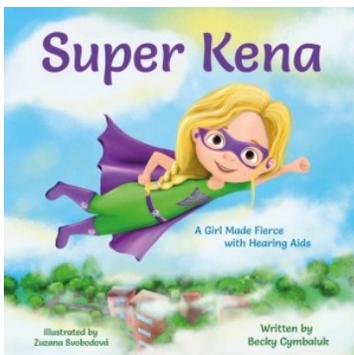
[MDCR](#) is a website containing research on auditory skills, speech, language, cognitive and social-emotional development of infants and children who are D/HH. This specific section of the MDCR site shares research from a parent's perspective, helps parents understand why research is important and how to navigate/use that information, and explains how clinical practice is molded and shaped based on research.

[MDCR – Information for Parents/Families and Providers on Developmental Milestones](#) in Languages other than English

[Information is available in many different languages](#) to help families/parents understand how developmental progress is monitored and how to identify red flags for developmental delay.

AAP Promising Practice

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD) program recognized [Children's Minnesota Ear, Nose and Throat \(ENT\) clinic](#) as an Innovative and Promising Practice. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ENT clinic restructured its newborn hearing screening program to limit the number of appointments needed by families, in addition to improving timely diagnosis. After restructuring, the clinic has seen improved diagnosis time, reduced number of infants who are lost to follow-up, and overall improvement on EHD 1-3-6 goals. This is the third 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 EHD program, [click here](#).



**Book Review
Submitted by Candace Lindow-Davies**

**Super Kena: A Girl Made Fierce with Hearing Aids
written by Becky Cymbaluk
and illustrated by Zuzana Svobodova'**

The joy of raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing is not only experienced by their immediate families. Often grandparents' lives are transformed, as in the case of this new Minnesota author, Becky Cymbaluk. Inspired by her granddaughter, Becky wrote the children's book, *Super Kena*, featuring a little girl who wears hearing aids. After being teased and turning to her mother for help, Kena was encouraged to see her hearing technology as giving her superpowers. Kena then thought about her friends who had something about them that was different and decided to create a team of superheroes to make a difference. With cute illustrations, sign language alphabet guide and empowering message, [Super Kena](#) is a great book for kids who wear hearing aids and their families.

Tele-intervention in Arizona: A Collaborative Success Story

Submitted by AZ Hands & Voices and AZ EHDI Program

Exceptional services are possible when three organizations, with a history of successful collaboration, flexible and creative individuals with a willingness to go above and beyond and experience in a recently completed tele-intervention project, and strategically available funding come together and respond to the unimaginable, even a global pandemic. In March 2020, the EAR Foundation of Arizona (EFAz), the Early Learning Program (ELP) and the Arizona Chapter of Hands & Voices (AZHV) combined their efforts to purchase technology, train and educate parents and staff, and implement exceptional early intervention services.

The EFAz is a not-for-profit organization that has been an integral part of Arizona Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (AzEHDI) since 1995. EFAz holds the federal EHDI grant for Arizona. In addition, EFAz supports early childhood screening and provides loaner and permanent hearing aids for children of all ages. Lylis Olsen works with EFAz and is the AzEHDI Coordinator. EFAz provided the funding for this project through a federal EHDI grant and organizational funds. EFAz purchased and configured a total of 120 laptops/tablets, 45 hotspots, and 70 SIM cards since the pandemic began. Most of this equipment was distributed in less than two weeks from conception of the project in March 2020. The quick turnaround was possible as EFAz is not encumbered by complicated state procurement systems due to its status as a not-for-profit organization. In October 2020, EFAz successfully procured additional funding through the CARES Act and expanded the program to include Deaf mentors and additional technology for difficult to reach families.

The ELP at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB) is the 0-5 early intervention provider for Part C of IDEA in Arizona. Kendra Benedict is the statewide director for the program that serves families of children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf/Blind. Services are available statewide through a network of highly qualified providers with backgrounds in Deaf/Hard of Hearing education in early childhood. ELP staff had participated in a pilot project with EFAz 5 years prior that looked at providing tele-intervention services. Additionally, recently hired staff had experience with tele-intervention in other states. ELP rapidly developed professional webinars, training, and mentorship for staff to ensure successful tele-intervention services were implemented quickly.

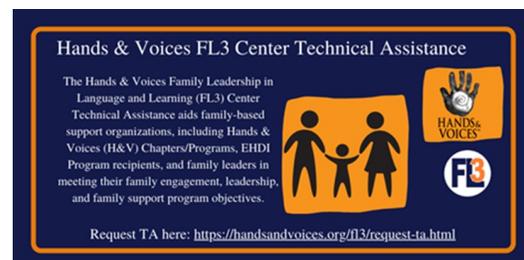
The Arizona Hands & Voices (AZHV) Guide By Your Side program provides parent to parent support as well as deaf and hard of hearing guides statewide. During the pandemic AZHV quickly transitioned to a virtual model providing weekly (now monthly) Zoom meetings on various related topics as well as a virtual camp and other support services. Heidi Klomhaus is the executive director leading a group of well-trained parent guides who are dedicated and passionate about helping families. Parent guides assisted in distributing the equipment and more importantly, were invaluable in providing one-to-one troubleshooting and practice for parents across the state that were unfamiliar with Zoom, allowing EI providers to focus on service provision, not technical assistance.

Equipment was available for families to use for any service or activity related to their child's development. Some of these services and activities included AZHV What's up Wednesdays, Guide By Your Side services, Deaf Mentor Program, virtual DHH camp, Storybeatz literacy zoom events, and virtual medical and therapy visits.

The project was successful only because of the dedication, trust, and hard work of all the partners. Many things did not go smoothly or as expected! Resources and expertise were found in family members (Lylis' 26-year-old nephew), a techy parent, ASDB IT staff and others. Although we are moving back to in-person services there will always be families who are better served virtually. This project provided the opportunity to build and deepen relationships and accountability across three organizations which will carry over into all the things that they do together for the families in Arizona.

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 | P.O. Box 3093, Boulder, CO 80307

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