



HANDS & VOICES "What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

How To Help



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

April 2022 marks the kick-off for year three of the FL3 Center HRSA Cooperative Agreement, UJ1MC30748. This also marks year three of the EHDI programs' funding cycle. All of us have a part in ensuring families have access to comprehensive and coordinated state and territory EHDI systems of care. As we all know, this is no small task. Take a moment, reflect on all you have accomplished in year two. Breathe in the success and put aside any frustrations or challenges.



"Spring is a time of new beginnings, new possibilities...What quality would you like to grow this spring?" Tara Killen.

Now that we are emerging from the days of winter, it is nearly impossible not to feel the possibilities inherent in the turning of the season. Nothing quite matches the rising energy of spring, both in nature and within us. Just think of all the families to whom we can bring new beginnings, new possibilities, and hope.

In thinking of these new families, Hands & Voices has recently dedicated a [webpage](#) on our site specifically for families new to the journey of raising a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. We also have created a QR code that our EHDI partners (EHDI programs, Family-based Organizations, and others) can share on their websites, social media pages or directly text to new families. We hope you find this helpful in your pursuit of providing families with timely support.

In partnership,
Lisa Kovacs, FL3 Center Director
Director of Programs Hands & Voices

Hands & Voices
OUR Children's Safety Project
April 12th/May 10th/June 14th, 2022
12 PM ET/11 AM CT/10 AM MT/9 AM PT
(One hour)

It's not too late to catch one of the final three sessions of the OUR Children's Safety Project on April 12th, May 10th, or June 14th as the community of learners wraps up the year's monthly calls. Last month, the committee highlighted the [Vook \(Virtual Book\) Club](#), a set of books designed to be shared with kids or read by adults to create and sustain important learning about safety

FL3 Office Hours
Thursday, May 26th, 2022
8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM
PT (One hour)

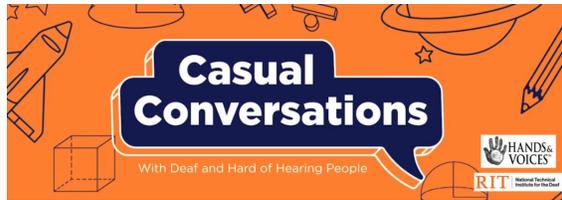
"Literacy Tools and Events" – Come discuss literacy resources and programs that you have successfully used with families.

Facilitated by Ann Marie Cruz and Marie Wusstig from Guam's GPPT and CEDDERS programs.

Captioning provided. All other

in all its aspects, including a book called [Consent for Kids](#) shared by Julia Luciano-Burns from Brighter World Child Advocacy Center.

Register Here for April
12th.



Casual Conversations with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in STEM

[Hands & Voices](#) teamed with the [Rochester Institute of Technology \(RIT\)/National Technical Institute for the Deaf \(NTID\)](#) to film interviews between youth who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) and DHH professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

To see the interviews in ASL, cued speech and with captioning, and to check out STEM resources specific to DHH, visit [here](#).

Suggested Use: Share on your social media platforms, include in your local newsletter, add to your FBO website, share with parents in one-on-one meetings, use in presentations about examples of DHH adults.



“Building a Parent Nation” Webinar April 14th 4 – 5 PM MT

Dr. Dana Suskind and Yolie Flores will discuss the importance of building a parent nation – a society that shares in the responsibility of raising children. Those who attend will learn how to begin building a community that enables parents and caregivers to meet the needs of young children.

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

**AG Bell Symposium
June 29 – 30, 2022**

communication access needs, please request one week prior.

Please register here.

HEAR TO LEARN Webinar Friday, April 15th 11:30 AM- 12:00 PM MT

We all begin meetings and conversations with simple questions. But are we expecting simple, one-word answers, or do we really want to have a more enlightening discussion? In this presentation, we will talk about various question forms and the resulting responses that actually get to the heart of the matter: better communication and better connections.

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



Free App Hands & Voices

Hands & Voices has an app for families with children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. The app is available on iOS and Android. Download it on your phone or device from your app store. The app provides 90 days of four items: Wisdom from a parent, wisdom from a Deaf/Hard of Hearing adult, a Hands & Voices article to read, and a website/resource to explore.

Implementing Equitable Care Coordination Webinar April 28th 10:30 AM MT (One hour)

The [National Resource Center for Patient/Family-Centered Medical Home](#) (NRC-PFCMH), in partnership with the [National Center for Care Coordination Technical Assistance](#) (NCCCTA) and [Family Voices of Wisconsin](#) and [Wisconsin Title V](#), will host a FREE webinar on the role of care coordination in supporting equitable care for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and their families.

The webinar will feature faculty from

AG Bell will host its [Global Listening and Spoken Language \(LSL\) Virtual Symposium](#) both live online and on demand. Offered in both Spanish and English, programming includes keynote speakers, concurrent and technology sessions, and poster + podium sessions. For session information visit [here](#).

Early bird registration rates, including a special family rate, available through April 22nd. [Click here](#).

Family Voices of Wisconsin and Title V who will share practice strategies used to build a sustainable care coordination system for CYSHCN and their families in their state.

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



**Hands & Voices 18th Annual
Leadership Conference
"Leadership: More Than a
State of Mind"**

Registration and Agenda coming 3rd week of April.

Sunday September 18th, 2022 - Tuesday September 20th, 2022
Location: Fairport, NY (30 minutes outside of Rochester, NY)

The Woodcliff Hotel & Spa

Hosted In partnership with NTID and support from the
Hands & Voices of New York Chapter

[Click here](#) for updates.



ASDC Family Conference and Classes

July 21 – 23, 2022 in Anaheim, CA

American Society for Deaf Children is holding a two-day conference consisting of morning presentations and field trips with a Deaf ASL role model in the afternoon.

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

[Click here](#) for information about ASDC's 4-



**Cue Camp Mechuwana
August 14th - 19th
Winthrop, Maine**

Cued Speech Association of New England is hosting [Cue Camp Mechuwana](#), an in-person camp providing a supportive learning environment for families and professionals who cue or are wishing to learn more about it. Cue classes offered for beginner cuers

For more information, email [here](#).
Register [here](#).



National Center on Deaf-Blindness

An essential part of advocating for services for a child who has combined vision and hearing loss is knowing to whom to reach out. The [National Center on Deaf-Blindness](#) provides a [list of services and organizations](#) that are relevant to most families who have children with deaf-blindness at some time during their child's life, including [State Deaf-Blind Projects](#).



Hearing First "Spring into Reading" Resource

Sharing books is one of the easiest and most important activities a parent can do with their child. Spring into action with Hearing First's springtime books and tips about reading with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. For more information, click [here](#).



A new resource, *Navigate Newborn Screening* toolkit, is available from [Expecting Health](#). The toolkit contains engagement tools and social media posts, an emergency preparedness bundle, and a helpful calendar of important dates. To access the [full toolkit](#) or join the partnership network, please [click here](#).

[Navegando por la Evaluación del Recién Nacido](#) is a free, online educational module developed with families, for families who are Spanish speaking, to help gain knowledge, build skills, and grow as leaders in the newborn screening system.



2022 Family Voices Family Leadership Conference Moving Forward: Embracing Change and Transformation October 18 – 20, 2022 Washington DC + Virtual

This conference is for family-led organizations, state Title V agencies, and other professionals in the children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) field. For more information, visit [here](#).



Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week May 4 - 10, 2022

The Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Campaign was established in May 2021 by Valerie James Abbott, parent-EHDI leader, and Justin Osmond, CEO/founder of the Olive Osmond Hearing Fund.

The campaign seeks to improve identification rates of children with post-natal hearing loss through increased community awareness about the prevalence, risk factors, and signs associated with late-onset and late-identified hearing loss.

For more information, contact [Valerie James Abbott](#) or visit the [Olive Osmond Hearing Fund](#).



JOHN
TRACY
CENTER

**JTC Virtual Listening Spoken
Language (LSL) LAB
June 13th-24th in English, and
July 11th-22th in Spanish.**

JTC is excited to offer this opportunity for families to learn from home, connect with other parents and interact with JTC specialists. The knowledge gained can enhance connections with their local providers. Please contact pals@jtc.org with questions about these Sessions.

[Click here](#) for more information.



It's Deaf History Month, a time to commemorate the achievements of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

DCMP has many resources to help you and your students recognize the rich history and contributions of people who are deaf. [Click here](#).

[Click here](#) for all resources offered from DCMP.



CMV Resources

Congenital Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is the most common viral infection, and the leading non-genetic cause of hearing loss that infants are born with in the United States. Every pregnant woman is at risk of acquiring CMV. And only 9% of women know about it.

For more information about the National CMV Foundation, visit [here](#).

Parents interested in registering for the CMV database, visit [here](#).

For information about the CMV Public Health & Policy Conference August 21-23, 2022, visit [here](#).

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 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.

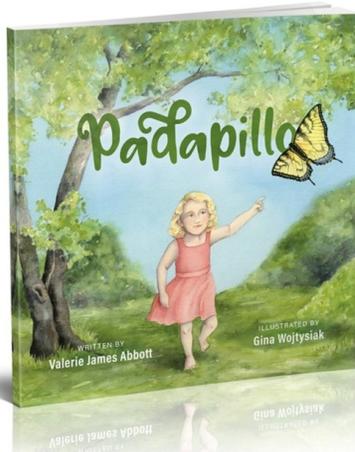


[EHDI-PALS](#) is a web-based searchable national directory. It helps families, healthcare professionals, and state public health organizations to find pediatric audiology expertise for children ages birth to five. The website provides information about childhood hearing to support families and professionals through the process of screening, diagnosis, and intervention.

This site links you to information, resources, and services for children with hearing loss. At the heart of EHDI-PALS is a national web-based directory of facilities that offer pediatric audiology services to young children who are younger than five years of age. [Learn More](#) about childhood hearing loss, hearing testing, and important questions parents can ask when making appointments. This contains web resources for parents and professionals.

Find [Other Helpful Websites](#), including national and state parent support organizations and other resources.

Suggested Use: Share on your social media platforms, include in your local newsletter, add to your FBO website, share with parents in one-on-one meetings, include in your local New Parent “Welcome” packet.



Book Review
Submitted by Candace Lindow-Davies

Padapillo
written by Valerie Abbott
and illustrated by Gina Wojtysiak

Little Bridget is acting strangely, and no one seems to notice—except her older sister. She notices everything. When the rest of her family finally realize that Bridget has been ignoring the world around her and inventing weird words, it leads to a startling diagnosis no one saw coming. In this touching story, narrated by the attentive, yet incredulous, older sister, we are led through a mystery and into the real-life emotional process family members often experience when a young child is unexpectedly diagnosed with hearing loss.

For more information about this book and when it will be available in Spanish, visit [here](#).



GRUPO APOYO VICTORIA
Submitted by Puerto Rico’s EHDl Team

During this funding period, the Puerto Rico Newborn Hearing Screening Program started the family support group “*Grupo de Apoyo Victoria*” in 2013. “Grupo Apoyo” is Spanish for “support group” and Victoria is the poster girl for our group. Victoria was born in 2011 and didn’t pass her newborn hearing screening at birth. Our service coordinator contacted her mother and by her third month of age, she was diagnosed with bilateral hearing loss. Our team worked hard and fast with Victoria’s mother, and by her 5th month of age, she was already using hearing aids. With Victoria we showed that our 1-3-6 goal really can be met! Victoria’s mother has been an active family leader ever since.

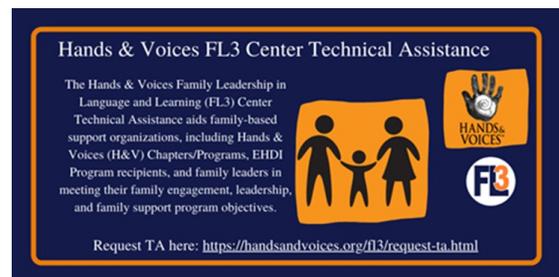
The *Grupo de Apoyo Victoria*’s goal is to unite families who have children that are D/HH in an informal manner to talk and exchange information about their experiences, worries and needs. For each meeting, our team includes one professional resource such as: an audiologist, speech therapist, psychologist, occupational therapist, teachers from school for the deaf and more recently, an audiologist who is also a specialist in rehabilitation. These professionals present valuable information and answer questions that the parents might have in the various fields of expertise. Before the COVID –19 pandemic, these meetings were held quarterly, by region, in person and during working hours, making it difficult for some parent to attend. But COVID-19 most definitely changed everyone’s life. Given the inability to meet in person, we started exploring virtual options to continue with the family support group. After carefully assessing the availability and options for the parents, a recurrent virtual meeting was established for 7 pm on Fridays. This has become one of our biggest accomplishments since the attendance has more than tripled since these virtual meetings started. Without the hassle of taking time off work and by overcoming other barriers that limited the parents to attend the meetings, we have had the chance to reach out to more families and their response has been great! This has been a great example of how a challenge became a hidden opportunity.

In addition to the virtual meetings, we continue to have our Family Based Organization working hard on all sorts of other tasks for family support. For us, Grupo Apoyo Victoria has been a great

accomplishment and has allowed us to incorporate new technologies that have facilitated and expanded our reach. Getting a chance to be helpful in a more accessible setting has been the best that COVID-19 has brought to PR EHDI.

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>

The graphic includes a central illustration of a family (two adults and a child) and logos for 'HANDS & VOICES' and 'FL3'.

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

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