



Spring greetings!

Hands & Voices is honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the 2024-2029 MCHB/HRSA funding for the Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center! We enthusiastically look forward to continuing our work supporting Family Leaders, Family-based Organizations, EHDI Coordinators, Staff, and Stakeholders.



The goal of the FL3 Center is to increase state capacity for family-to-family support, develop family leadership skills, and engage Deaf/Hard of hearing leaders as mentors to families across state/territory EHDI programs and other EHDI system stakeholders. The FL3 Center is one of three national centers that make up the EHDI National Network. The other two centers are the Implementation and Change Center (ICC) awarded to Gallaudet University and the Provider Education Center (PEC) awarded to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

As we launch into the start of this new funding cycle, we want to express our commitment to families, as decision-makers for their children, and to our partners that together we can advance the system for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to get the services that meet their unique needs so that they can thrive in their communities and grow up to become healthy, happy adults.

In partnership,
Lisa Kovacs
FL3 Center Core Management Team

[Click here](#) for the press release.

Learning Events and Timely Resources to Share with Families and Agencies



H&V FL3 Leadership Webinar Thursday, April 18th, 2024

1 PM ET/12 PM CT/ 11 AM MT/10 AM PT
(One hour)

Leadership Essentials: Navigating the Path to Success

Presenters: Anita Cervantes-Bowen, Statewide Lead Deaf Parent Guide with Carrie Balian, IL H&V GBYS Coordinator, H&V HQ GBYS Program Lead, Illinois Hands & Voices

Audience: Family leaders, family-based support organizations, Deaf organizations, EHDI program staff, EHDI systems stakeholders, and pediatric healthcare providers

This webinar explores the leadership journey, including components of how to become a leader, engaging others, finding strengths, and leading effectively as a parent leader in the EHDI system. By reflecting on oneself, building trust, and embracing diversity, individuals learn to inspire and motivate others.

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

O.U.R. Children's Safety Project Tuesday, May 14, 2024

12 PM ET/11 AM CT/10 AM MT/9 AM PT
(One hour)

Star Raft Circles of Connection & Safety

David Wetherow and his wife created the Star Raft Project and a step-by-step method to ensure children have a circle of support, connection and expanded opportunity. Learn what this means for children's safety in this engaging session. David has a long history of parent and professional leadership in the disability community.



20th Annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference September 20th - September 22nd, 2024

Hands & Voices Washington and **Hands & Voices British Columbia** are excited to co-host the 20th Annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference in Spokane, Washington.

[Click here](#) for the conference website. Be sure to check back as the site will update regularly. Registration and agenda will be available on the site April 18th.

Interested in being a Sponsor or Exhibitor?

New opportunities available to send a parent/caregiver. [Click here](#) for more information.

Latino Family Support Community Forum

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM PT
(One hour)

Self-Advocacy Skills for DHH Children

Hispanic/Latino parents share their experience instilling self-advocacy awareness with their DHH Children. They will share the strategies they practiced supporting their child as they develop the skills to be their own advocate.

Audience: Parents of DHH children and Parent Leaders providing support to Spanish Speaking Parents of DHH children. We ask you to share with your HV chapter, EHDI Program Leaders, and FBOs offering support to Spanish Speaking Parents of DHH Children.

Audience: Family leaders, family-based support organizations, Deaf organizations, EHDI systems stakeholders, educators, and pediatric healthcare providers

[Click here](#) to register.



Explore DHH Camps

Discover specialized summer camps for deaf and hard of hearing kids, their siblings, and children of deaf adults in your area!

Check out the new [interactive map of camps](#) created by the Clerc Center at Gallaudet University in partnership with [REAL: Regional Early Acquisition of Language Project](#).

[Click here](#) for more information.



(Click graphic)

ASTra Webinar Series

Thursday, June 25th, 2024

12 PM ET/11 AM CT/10 AM MT/9 AM PT

(One hour)

Best Practices When Serving Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families

Presenters: Rana Ottallah and Ana Brooks
How can advocates increase their knowledge and ability to serve families with additional barriers?

[Reserve your spot](#) and share this information from the *Hands & Voices Advisory Council for Latino Family Support*.

[Click here](#) for flyer with upcoming topics and dates.

Questions? [Contact Ana Brooks](#)

Please note, session will be in English with ASL interpretation. Spanish translation will be made available with a 2 week notice prior to event (April 23)

Light the Campfire!



Why should you think about camps for your DHH child?

Read [Light the Campfire](#) to gain the perspective of a Deaf parent leader.



Introducing: Off to a Great Start!

Explore resources and activities to support the early intervention journey for families of children who are Deaf/Hard of hearing through this [virtual, interactive website](#).

Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

Click on the rocket: Blast off with Early Intervention (8 Reasons to Say Yes to EI)
Click on the books: A link to the new [H&V Library](#)
Click on the ball: Learn why it is important

By adding additional tools to their toolbox, advocates will learn how to empower and train with appropriate resources that are specifically designed to meet culturally and linguistically diverse families.

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

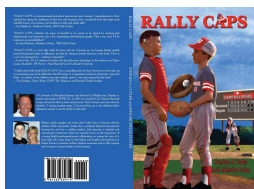
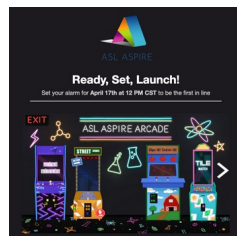
[Click here](#) to view past webinars in the series.



We welcome you to [download](#) a pdf version of the 2023 Hands & Voices Annual Report. This file is a pdf (Adobe Acrobat) that has been optimized for viewing on the screen.

ASDC announces a virtual ASL Arcade

[Click here](#) for a game-based approach to ASL- STEM education.



[Rally Caps](#) is a funny and touching story about a young baseball player and a huge fan of baseball great Cal

Ripken. Jordan has an injury during tryouts and is afraid to return to his beloved game. He attends summer camp and meets a baseball-loving boy who is deaf, and his equally athletic sister. Together, they learn about camp pranks, life lessons and the curve balls that life sometimes throws. Now a feature length [independent film](#), the book was written by a father/daughter team: Stephen J. Cutler and Jodi Michelle Cutler. Jodi's son is deaf and uses cochlear implants. The book is suitable for ages 8-12.

to have ongoing assessment in EI Click on the puzzle, blocks, boat, robot, and the three balloons to see even more ways to support language acquisition and development!

Soar to new heights as you move through your day with your child with fun and easy ideas you can use to address all the

areas you care about. Information and resources embedded in the guide will help you and your child in the areas of family well-being (how you are doing), knowledge (what you need to know), and empowerment (confidence to get where you are going.)



The Family Support Activities Guide is [available here](#) or access it by clicking on the balloon tag from the [Off To a Great Start](#) page on the Hands & Voices website.



Webinar

Making Music and Building Brains Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

1 PM ET/12 PM CT/ 11 AM MT/10 AM PT
(One hour)

How to Maximize Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Through Musical Experiences

Join Amy McConkey Robbins, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT and other families on Tuesday, May 14 at 1 p.m. ET to explore the relationship between music and language development! You'll walk away with practical tips and tricks you can start using right away to make music part of your daily interactions with your child.

[Click here to register.](#)

EARWORM

Podcast

*Dialogues on Hearing Health
You Can't Stop Thinking About*

- **Episode 8: It's time to Educate Women about the Risks of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) During Pregnancy** with Megan Nix, author, parent and cCMV advocate
- **Episode 7: Family-to-Family Support** as a key resource when empowering families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to become informed decision makers with Janet DesGeorges, parent and Executive Director of Hands & Voices
- **Episode 6: How will we communicate with our child?** Supporting families as they face key questions when their child is diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing with Amy Spencer, Speech-Language Pathologist and coordinator of Early Intervention at the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Find the [Earworm Podcast](#) streaming anywhere you listen to podcasts and available [here](#) with transcripts. These “dialogues on hearing health that you can’t stop thinking about” were produced through the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management ([NCHAM](#)).

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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