



*"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."*TM



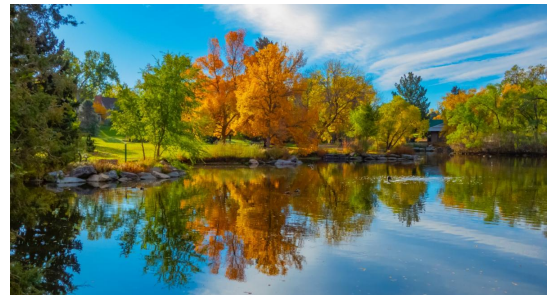
H&V/FL3

4th Quarter ENEWS

October, November, December 2025

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of eNews!

In this issue, we bring you the latest updates, highlights, and announcements to keep you informed and engaged.



This month, we had the privilege of hosting the annual Hands & Voices Leadership Conference. The event provided me with the opportunity to witness the remarkable leadership that exists within our community. Throughout the conference, I participated in various sessions as a learner and a leader. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to both give and receive guidance and support. The dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences is at the heart of our community's strength. Whether you are a parent leader or a professional leader, each of us plays a vital role in the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) community.

Through our collaborative efforts, we continuously strive to improve and maintain a system that empowers families and their children. Our shared dedication helps create environments in which happy and successful lives are possible. Each day, we all serve as difference makers—devoted individuals who have the ability to make a meaningful impact, even through the smallest actions, whether we are working as part of a team or independently.

To be a difference maker is to actively seek ways to improve the lives of others. It means encouraging and rallying those around us to move forward and inspiring positive change within our community. The FL3 Center is honored to work alongside all of you—parent leaders and professional leaders—as we strive to create lasting, positive outcomes for families and children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

In partnership,
Lisa Kovacs and the FL3 Center team

Upcoming Events, Resources, and Information to Share with Families and Agencies



**O.U.R. Children's Safety Project
Tuesday, November 11th, 2025**

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

**What Do We Know About Adverse
Childhood Experiences (including
Bullying) for Children who are
Deaf/hard of hearing?**

Facilitator: Sara Kennedy

Guest Speakers: Alyson Ward, PhD

Audience: All are welcome

[Click here](#) for details and pre-work.

[Register here.](#)

Registration is required 48 hours in advance. Auto-captioning will be provided. Please register one week ahead for additional access requests.



**Open Funding Opportunity:
Request for Proposals**

The Request for Proposals, [A Family Navigation Approach to Supporting Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](#), aims to support timely access to pediatric hearing healthcare through the implementation of navigator programs. The Foundation is accepting proposals from 501(c)(3) organizations in the U.S. who would like to introduce or expand a navigator program to assist families in achieving early hearing detection, identification, and intervention benchmarks. **Applications are open**

FL3 Office Hours:

Thursday, November 13th, 2025

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

***Storybeatz: Strengthening Family
Engagement through
Language and Literacy***

Presenters: Heidi Klomhaus and Cheryl Gilroy, Arizona Hands & Voices

Description: Join us to learn about *Storybeatz*, an interactive program hosted monthly by Parent Guide Cheryl Gilroy of Arizona Hands & Voices. This event engages Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children and their families through storytelling, music, and movement. Goals include fostering language development, literacy skills, and cultural appreciation by incorporating American Sign Language (ASL), spoken language, and musical elements.

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

Registration is required 48 hours in advance: One week prior for communication access requests.



Family Webinar Series

The Family Webinar Series is designed to share valuable information and foster meaningful connections among parents in our program. Through expert-led sessions and open dialogue, we aim to support families by providing relevant resources, encouraging peer support, and strengthening the community that surrounds our program.

now and will close on Tuesday,
November 28, 2025.

***U.S. Specific

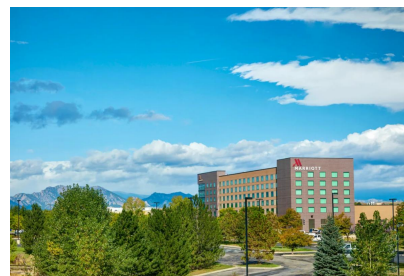


Save the Date!!

The 25th Annual EHDl Conference
Jacksonville, Florida
March 15th-17th, 2026

[Click here](#) for details.

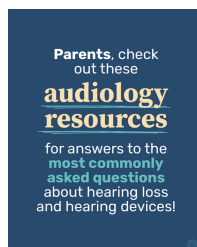
[Click here](#) for dates, topics, and to register.



Save the Date
The 2026 Annual
Hands & Voices Leadership
Conference
September 17-19th, 2026
Westminster, Colorado

Join us in celebrating our
30 years as an organization.

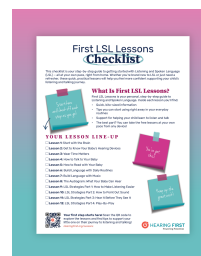
More information coming in early 2026



Audiology Resource Round Up

Families often have a sea of questions about their baby's hearing loss and hearing devices. ***The Audiology Resource Round Up*** brings together family-friendly answers all together in one place. Explore:

- Engaging videos with experienced pediatric audiologists
- The Familiar Sounds Audiogram (available in English and Spanish)
- A helpful Wear Time infographic
- Articles answering the most common family questions
- [Start exploring here.](#)



First LSL Lessons Checklist ***A New Tool from Hearing First***

This checklist was made for families ready to dive into Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) with First LSL Lessons. First LSL Lessons is your step-by-step guide to getting started with LSL at your own pace, right from home. Use this checklist to stay organized as you work through each lesson and check the boxes as you go! [Download your checklist here.](#)

[Click here](#) for more resources for families and professionals.

 resonate



No-charge Genetic Counseling and Testing Program for Hearing Loss



More than 60% of congenital hearing loss is due to an underlying genetic cause.

Updates to U.S. Resonate® no-charge genetic counseling and testing program.

Eligibility criteria have been further expanded (as highlighted below) to include individuals under 40 years of age in the U.S. with at least one of the following:

- Bilateral or **unilateral** sensorineural hearing loss (by auditory brainstem response or behavioral testing) of **mild**, moderate, moderately severe, severe, or profound degree
- Auditory neuropathy

We have **rebranded from Akouos to Eli Lilly** and Company, so you will now find Akouos listed on the Prevention Genetics sponsored testing page under Lilly

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) for your health care provider to order genetic testing and counseling.

[Brochure](#)

***U.S. Specific



FL3 Resources and Tools to Share

Resource Toolbox

Many resources have been developed since the inception of the FL3. [Click here](#) to find the materials arranged by topical area. For more in-depth information on each of the topics please explore each [subject's section](#). Be sure to check out the [webinar/trainings page](#) for additional learning opportunities. If you have any questions or comments about these resources, please contact us at fl3@handsandvoices.org.

Other Items of Interest to Share



[ASDC](#) has compiled a number of [Halloween ASL resources](#) to help



[DCMP](#)'s October [newsletter](#) includes

you to get in the Halloween spirit including stories, games, songs, and other resources!

[Click here](#) to sign up for monthly workshops, webinars, and online events.



Listen CI Camp Scholarship Applications Due November 14th.

Financial assistance, in the form of partial camp scholarships, is available for a limited number of families who cannot otherwise afford to attend camp at the June and July 2026 sessions in Estes Park, Colorado. [Click here for information and application.](#)

information about [DCMP Television](#), offering educational television series for all grade levels.

[Click here](#) for a video link to ***Rambee Boo! Halloween.***

Available with captions and/or ASL interpreting.

[Apply for a free membership](#) to learn what DCMP has to offer.



[Odyssey](#) magazine is an award-winning publication published annually by the Clerc Center. Now accepting articles for the 2026 issue: Exploring the Digital Age in Deaf Education.

Help choose the 2027 Odyssey theme.

For more information, [click here](#).



Reintroduction of Ally's Act H.R. 4606

Ally's Act (H.R. 4606) ensures that private insurance companies will cover these critical and life-altering devices for children and adults from birth to age 64.

Osseointegrated devices (OIDs) and Cochlear Implants provide children with the opportunity to develop alongside their peers and allow adults with the same hearing loss to have a healthy education, career, and social life. [Click here](#)



Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA)

The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA) would require a group health plan, and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, to provide coverage for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect that primarily impacts the appearance

for complete description of Ally's Act.

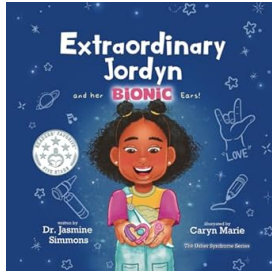
[Ear Community Website Full Press Release](#)

***U.S. Specific

or function of the eyes, ears, teeth, mouth, or jaw.

[Click here](#) for complete information.

***U.S. Specific



Extraordinary Jordan and her Bionic Ears **A Book Review by Sara Kennedy**

Dr. Jasmine Simmons, Au.D., a clinical audiologist trained in Michigan and currently living in Florida, has written one book of a future Usher syndrome series around the character Jordyn from her personal experience. Dr. Simmons was identified with a profound hearing difference soon after birth and received a cochlear implant at age two. At seven, she was identified with retinitis pigmentosa, the first inkling that she had a progressive vision loss. The diagnosis of Usher syndrome didn't come until her 20s, putting the pieces together about effects in her hearing, balance, and later, vision. She was identified as legally blind at age 28. Dr. Simmons is not only a practicing audiologist but teaches in schools about her personal experience and serves as an accessibility coordinator.

Extraordinary Jordyn focuses on the young character Jordyn's strengths and the occasional struggle with others who sometimes see her as limited. In the book, Jordyn's parents nurture her interests and sense of self, and try to inoculate her against any discrimination or mistreatment by adults or peers through a nightly check-in. Jordyn herself is passionate about science and space. She is mostly proud of her hearing difference, using a cochlear implant and hearing aid. While she sometimes doubts herself, she wrestles with that and reflects the joy and strength she sees in herself. The book's illustrations extend that joy and curiosity in engaging artwork. (Note: No mention of Usher syndrome is made in this first book of the series.)

This book, intended for ages 5-9, can certainly be read to younger children. Stickers and downloadables to extend learning are available on [her website](#). Dr. Simmons says, "Every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and celebrated. My goal is to make sure disability is not just acknowledged—but embraced as part of our shared human experience. Through stories like Jordyn's, I hope children learn to be proud of who they are—and to see the power in their difference." We look for more to come from Dr. Simmons.

**[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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