



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



H&V/FL3

1st Quarter ENEWS

January, February, March 2026

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the H&V/FL3 Center eNews

Happy New Year!



A new year brings fresh hope and new possibilities. It's also a meaningful time to reflect on where we've been, what we've learned, and how those experiences shape the path ahead. [The FL3 Center](#) has resources to support you in assessing your delivery of support to families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing as you plan for the coming year and shape your path ahead.

[Family-to-Family Support Impact Question Bank](#)
[Family-to-Family Support Program Self Evaluation Tool](#)
[Checklist for Delivery of Unbiased Support to Families](#)
[DHH Leader to Family Support Self Evaluation Tool](#)
[The EHDI System Self-Evaluation Tool](#)
[Partnership Continuum - Annual Rating Tool](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the [FL3 Center](#). We are here to support you!

In partnership with you,
Lisa Kovacs and the FL3 Center Core Management Team



Thank you for being part of the #PowerOfConnection this past December. Your support helps ensure that Hands & Voices will enter our 30th year strong, ready to continue walking alongside families and helping children who are deaf or hard of hearing reach their highest potential. Donations are accepted year-round [online](#). Donations may be mailed to Hands & Voices, PO Box 3093, Boulder, Colorado. **Even an old car may be donated.** Call 1-866-628-2277 or [click here](#).

Upcoming Events, Resources, and Information

H&V Reads: A Leadership Book Club

Thursday, January 22, 2026
3 PM ET/2 PM CT/1 PM MT/Noon PT
(One hour)

Book selection: *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*

H&V Facilitators: Sara Kennedy (H&V HQ) and Hanna Swearingen (IL H&V)

In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults.

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

Hands & Voices Forums entirely in Spanish for Parents.

Facilitated by the [H&V Latino Council](#).

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026
and
Tuesday, May 19th, 2026
8 PM ET/7 PM CT/6 PM MT/5 PM PT
(One hour)
These events will be in Spanish only.

February 17th: *Preparing for The Unexpected* (Preparandonos Para Lo Inesperado)

May 19th: *Small Changes, Big Achievements* (Pequenos Cambios, Grandes Logros)

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

[Click here](#) (Spanish)

O.U.R. Children's Safety Project:

Monthly Learning
Community for Parents,
DHH Leaders and
Professionals



2nd Tuesday of the month
October-May
Noon ET/11 AM CT/10 AM MT/9 AM PT
(One hour)

[Click here](#) for more information, past presentations, and registration information.



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

Early-Bird Pricing Ends February 2nd.

[Click here](#) for everything you need to know.



2026 H&V Leadership Conference
September 17-19th, 2026
Westminster, Colorado

Join us to celebrate
30 YEARS as an Organization

Check back [here](#) -
more information coming soon!

Deadline to Apply: February 6th, 2026
Notifications will be sent February 10th, 2026



REAL Scholarships will cover:

- Conference registration
- Lodging
- Air travel expenses

Please note: REAL is not able to cover mileage, rideshare, or meal expenses.

Who Can Apply:

- Parents/caregivers of deaf or hard of hearing children ages 0 through 3 (until last day before 4th birthday) or parents who provide support to these families
- Professionals who support these families

Application Requirements:

- Must be a resident or provide services in **REAL's South and West** regions (see below for list of states and U.S. territories)
- A recommendation letter
 - o **Parents/Caregivers:** from an Early Intervention Coordinator or Service Provider
 - o **Professionals:** from a supervisor or colleague

[Click here to apply.](#)

***United States and Territories only

South: AL, GA, TN, FL, MS, LA, KY, AR, VA, NC

West: WA, OR, CA, AK, MT, AZ, NM, CO, UT, NV, ID, HI

Islands: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands



[The Familiar Sounds Audiogram eBook and worksheet](#) (English) are now available in [Spanish!](#)

The Familiar Sounds Audiogram worksheet is a simple, interactive tool that helps you see exactly how



[The Find Your Way Guide](#) (English) has become a go-to resource loved by both families and professionals! The guide is now available in [Spanish.](#)



[Professional's Guide to First LSL Lessons](#)

First LSL Lessons can easily fit into your practice to support families of children with hearing loss.

your child's hearing impacts their daily life.

[Click here](#) for more resources available in Spanish.

When a child is identified with hearing loss, many parents' ask, "What's next?"

This booklet helps families take the next steps with confidence so they can help their child with hearing loss to listen and talk.

You'll find tips, guidance, and common ways to use the lessons to help families inside this all-in-one professional's guide to First LSL Lessons.

**Nominations Being Accepted for
People who have made Outstanding Contributions to the EHDl System
Winners will be announced during the EHDl Conference.**

- The **Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDl Excellence** is presented each year at the National EHDl Conference to honor an individual who has made outstanding contributions to achieving excellence in EHDl programs nationally or in a particular state or region. Email nominations to: [Karl White](#) by end of day January 28, 2026
- The **Family Leadership in EHDl Program** honors a parent or family member of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) for providing exemplary leadership in their state EHDl system. Email nominations to [Laura Gramer](#) by end of day January 31, 2026.



FL3 Resources and Tools to Share

Resource Toolbox

Did you miss the webinar, ***From Start to Finish: Smarter Project Planning in Busy Workflows***, on January 15th, 2026 presented by Janet DesGeorges? Regardless of how you like to do your planning - whether it's on paper lists, digital platforms, Excel spreadsheets or somehow managing it through 47 email exchanges (no judgment... but also, maybe... let's talk), this webinar will discuss essential considerations of taking a project from beginning to end. The recorded webinar is [available here](#).

[Click here](#) for trainings and past webinars.

Other Items of Interest to Share



Welcome to ASL



Partnership Continuum

Storytelling with ASDC

This ASL Stories Directory makes it easy for you to find hundreds of free videos of ASL retellings of your child's or student's favorite books.

Research shows that **reading and signing stories together** helps promote essential literacy skills for ALL children: deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing. Use the [ASL Stories Directory](#) to quickly find stories by age or by the book's title. Find [useful tips](#) here for reading with your child.

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



Listen CI Camp Registration Opens January 23, 2026 at 10 AM MT

Dates for Listen CI Camp 2026 are:

- **June 25-28, 2026:**
CI Recipients Entering 4th Grade in Fall 2026 through 2026 High School Graduates
- **July 30-August 2, 2026:**
CI Recipients Age 3 through Entering 3rd Grade in Fall 2026

[Click here](#) for registration and camp details



Summer Programs/Camps at Gallaudet University

Summer Camps at Gallaudet allow middle and high school students

Annual Rating Tool

Evidence shows that family engagement in systems leads to better outcomes for children's health and education. How can family organizations measure the growth of partnerships? This [annual rating tool](#) was developed over time from the experience of family leaders. The work was also informed by the Family Voices Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tools ([see more here](#)). This tool helps FBOs assess, plan, and improve efforts toward meaningful collaboration and the co-production of services as relationships between organizations change.



Explore Your Future [National Technical Institute for the Deaf \(NTID\)](#)

A five-day summer program for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students entering grades 10,11, and 12 in the Fall of 2026. [E.Y.F](#) introduces students to college life while exploring exciting career paths. [Apply here](#). For other youth programs, [click here](#).



Annual Parent Workshop June 22-26,2026

experience stimulating learning and activities in an ASL/English environment minutes from the U.S. Capitol.

[Click here](#) for summer programs 2026.

The Moog Center for Deaf Education is pleased to present an Annual Parent Workshop each summer for parents and caregivers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. [Click here](#) for details.

Reintroduction of Ally's Act

Ally's Act was reintroduced In December 2025 by Senator John Curtis and Senator Elizabeth Warren as Lead and Co-Lead.



[Ally's Act, H.R. 4606](#) (house bill) and [Ally's Act, S. 3400](#) (senate bill) 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.

[Contact Abbie Callahan](#) in Congressman Joe Neguse's office for co-sponsorship.
[Contact Kannon Butler](#) in Senator John Curtis' office for co-sponsorship.

[Ear Community Website](#)

***U.S. Specific

The **Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA)** is a federal bill that would require a group health plan offering group or individual health insurance coverage to close existing gaps by providing coverage for outpatient and inpatient technology and health care services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect(s) primarily impacting the function and appearance of the eyes, ears, teeth, mouth, or jaw.



[Click here](#) for the latest information about this bill.

***U.S. Specific



My Monster Truck Goes Everywhere with Me

Written by Kathleen Marcath,

Founder of ASL Picture Books

Illustrated in American Sign Language

A Book Review by Sara Kennedy

Some kids treasure a special toy that goes everywhere with them. To Grandma's house, to the doctor, down the slide and to the grocery store. In this case, a little boy loves a purple, shiny, fast and loud monster truck.

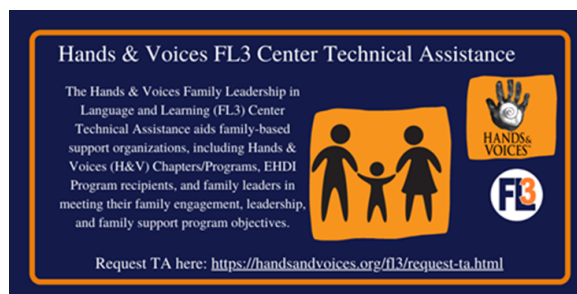
The author skillfully weaves in typical routines and loved adults, emotions, and even simple counting. The rich illustrations by Deaf artists also show sign language, fingerspelling, and add other concepts to the story (time and order, emotions, and lots of verbs!) There is a pictured list near the front of the book showing the main character signing 32 signs within the book, but many more signs could be shared beyond the simple text.

The plot is engaging and easy to follow; and the ASL included on the page will help novice signers along the way.

The author, Kathleen Marcath, achieved a Kirkus-starred review for her debut picture book. Her mission is to bridge worlds through language and love, helping families connect through the limitless potential of ASL. Look for other titles at [ASL Picture Books](#).

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 US

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