

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

In connection with the Early Accessible Language video

[Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center \(Clerc Center\)](#)

The Clerc Center is a federally funded national deaf education center. The Clerc Center website includes links to many resources for families through its information clearinghouse called [Info To Go](#). Families can find links to information specific to [Early Intervention](#) and [Families](#). Of special interest to early language acquisition for families are many free resources developed at the Clerc Center, including the following:

- A web-based resource developed as a collaborative effort between the Clerc Center and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program of Boston Children's Hospital titled: [Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#). Seven modules are provided on many topics important to promoting early language acquisition for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is available in both American Sign Language, spoken English, and [Spanish](#) with closed captions. Also included is an [Activity Guide](#) for professionals to support their work with families as they use this resource.
- Two webcasts developed for professionals, but which provide important information for families about the rationale for using both ASL and spoken English.
 - [Language Learning Through the Eye and Ear](#) (webcast and reference list)
 - [Maximizing Language Acquisition in ASL and Spoken English](#) (webcast and reference list)
- [Info To Go](#); A Clerc Center clearinghouse of resources on many topics including:
 - [Early Intervention](#)
 - [American Sign Language](#); including [Learning American Sign Language, Books, Media, and Classes](#) (Links to ASL resources outside Clerc Center)
 - [Spoken Language](#)

[Gallaudet University](#)

Gallaudet University is a unique liberal arts university for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. They have many initiatives related to early language acquisition. Two of their initiatives that may be of special interest to families include [The Visual Language and Visual Learning Center \(VL2\)](#), and [ASL Connects](#)

- [The Visual Language and Visual Learning Center \(VL2\)](#) VL2 is a Science of Learning Center funded by the National Science Foundation. Housed at Gallaudet University, they study the advantages of being bilingual in English and American Sign Language. Included is information targeted for families in their [VL2 Family Information Center](#). Here you will find:
 - [Research Briefs](#) published by VL2, plus an [Overview of Research Briefs](#). Some briefs are available in Spanish and Mandarin.
 - [Storybook apps](#) to support reading and signing with your child in American Sign Language

- Interviews with parents, researchers, and deaf adults on growing up bilingual, and/or learning sign language including a video, [Growing Together: Creating Language-Rich Environments](#)
- [Parent Toolkit](#) ; American Sign Language (ASL). In the toolkit you will find: [Making Visual Sense! Tutorial Series](#), [“Find-A-Sign” Dictionary](#), and [Parent Resource List](#)

Other VL2 Resources include:

- [The Visual Communication and Sign Language \(VCSL\) Checklist](#), an assessment tool developed to address American Sign Language (ASL) skills development in children from birth to age 5.
- [Mythbusters](#), a presentation addressing seven myths and the science that debunks them based on the research of Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto. Dr. Petitto is known for her work on the biological bases of language, especially involving early language acquisition.
- [Brain and Language Lab for Neuroimaging \(BL2\)](#) a site for neuroimaging and behavioral studies that provide knowledge about the biological mechanisms and environmental factors, which, together, make possible the human capacity to learn and convey language, achieve reading mastery, and become a skilled bilingual language learner.
- [The Early Education and Literacy Lab EL2](#) conducts studies of individual differences among deaf children in their literacy development in authentic early education settings, and
- [Motion Light Lab \(ML2\)](#) ML2 innovates technologies to help improve interaction and learning of visual language.
- [Signwise4kids.com](#) Website that advises families and professionals about the accuracy and quality of American Sign Language (ASL) products designed for children.
- [ASL Connect](#)
ASL Connect at Gallaudet University, is resource for learning ASL. They offer ways to learn some basic ASL online to get you started, and then they offer highly engaging and interactive ASL and Deaf Studies courses online. ASL Connect is currently developing online resources for families of Deaf children, to be released in 2019. These resources are designed to support families in their journey to connect with their children through American Sign Language. We will also be offering live, one on one language support opportunities. If you are interested, please send an email to aslconnect.families@gallaudet.edu to sign up for notifications of upcoming information releases.

Other Resources

[Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning \(FL3\)](#)

[Hands and Voices](#) (H&V) is a parent-driven, non-profit organization. Their website provides numerous resources to support families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. H&V is managing a federal grant called Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3). The FL3 website also has extensive information for families. On the FL3 website, families will find:

- [FL3 National Needs Assessment](#) answering the question, *“How do you know what families need or want?”*
- [FL3: Current Research and Data](#) A guide to looking at research from a parent’s perspective. Information is provided about why research is important in understanding the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and how to navigate and use the following information found throughout the FL3 website to inform decision making for families:
 - Links to Language Research, [Literacy Research](#) and [Social Development Research](#) that can and should be considered in language and communication planning. This research was put together

by the [Language and Literacy Advisory Board of FL3](#)

- Links to videos, articles, and other information of interest on [Learning from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults](#)
- How to Find a Hands & Voices Chapter: <http://handsandvoices.org/chapters/starts.htm>
- How to Find Family-Based Organizations that Provide Services to Families with Children who are Deaf/HH: <http://handsandvoices.org/fl3/topics/fam-fam-support/need-support.html>
- How to Find Deaf/HH Adult Mentor/Guide/Role Model Programs: <http://infanthearing.org/dhadultinvolvement/states/index.html>
- How to Find/Start Deaf Mentor Program Near You: <http://www.deaf-mentor.skihi.org/>
- Educational Advocacy Resources: <http://handsandvoices.org/astra/index.html>

- [National Center on Hearing Assessment and Management \(NCHAM\)](#)

Housed at Utah State University, National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) serves as the National Technical Resource Center for the implementation and improvement of comprehensive and effective Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems. Some resources of family interest include:

- [EHDI E-Book: A Resource Guide for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention \(2018\)](#) . Chapters by numerous authors on many topics related to early intervention.
- [Deaf/Hard of Hearing Adult Involvement Learning Community](#). A learning community that includes links to information on research and published literature, the role of technology and social media, examples of deaf and hard of hearing mentor/adult involvement programs, family stories, and other resources and tools on this topic.

- [Ski Hi Deaf Mentor Program](#)

The Ski Hi Deaf mentor program provides family-centered, home based, and curriculum led early education in the home, focusing on visual communication, American Sign Language, and bridging and navigating deaf and hearing experiences with families of deaf children, birth to age six (or beyond).

- [American Society for Deaf Children \(ASDC\)](#)

Family organization that links to numerous family directed resources related to early language and development, including links to Endeavor magazine, the ASDC publication for families. Learn about [SignOn](#), a virtual immersion program that lets families practice ASL live with a Deaf adult from the comfort of their own computer.

- [National Association for the Deaf: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers](#)

Links to resources from NAD to support advocacy in ensuring ensure that families have the resources they need to help their children acquire language, spoken and/or visual, and achieve age-appropriate communicative, cognitive, academic, social, and emotional development.

- [Beginnings: For Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)

Beginnings is a non-profit organization known throughout the country for their resources for families in making informed decisions for their deaf or hard of hearing child and understanding their children's rights. Their website includes extensive resources for families.

- [My Baby's Hearing](#) (Boys Town National Research Hospital)

Family-centered, online resource developed by Boys Town National Research Hospital to answer parents' questions about such topics as infant hearing screening and follow-up testing, steps to take after identifying that a child is deaf or hard of hearing, evaluating hearing and fitting listening

technologies, language and speech, and parenting issues. It is divided into two sections: “First Steps: Newborn Screening” and “Next Steps: My Baby Has a Hearing Loss.” The site is also available in [Spanish](#).

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