



Arizona Hands & Voices

**2010 EHDI Conference
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Faith & Religion:

**Acknowledging the Impact of an Existing Community in
Supporting Families with Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children**

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What are you hoping to gain
from this presentation?



Cultural Context of Faith & Religion

- Looking at the subject from a cultural perspective
- I have no particular faith based system in mind
- I took many illustrations from the web that demonstrate information available that may impact a family's experience of diagnosis and subsequent early intervention and follow-up care
- My inquiry did not receive the response I was expecting

Examples of Beliefs

OT/NT Texts of Healing



Christian Science



Catholic



Examples of Beliefs

Jewish



Others

Native American





Faith is Personal

- Faith is very personal
- Faith intersects nuclear and extended family
- Religion may or may not inform faith
- Faith can be tested in times of stress
 - My experience with Julie
 - During pregnancy
 - Diagnosis, infant or older child

Illustrations

- **WESTON, Wis. — An 11-year-old girl died after her parents prayed for healing rather than seek medical help for a treatable form of diabetes, police said Tuesday. Wednesday, March 26, 2008**
- The girl's parents attributed the death to "apparently they didn't have enough faith," the police chief said.





Illustrations

- A recently diagnosed child and his Grandma
- A recently diagnosed infant, his mother and the audiologist
- A recently diagnosed infant and a parent's extended family
- A teenage girl



Discussion

Other illustrations from the audience



Discussion

How would you navigate the previous illustrations if you were the professional involved?



A Non-Biased Approach

- “I don’t typically talk about my religion or beliefs to families and just listen to them when they tell me about theirs. If I have a family that tells me they will be bringing their child in to be healed or have a ceremony that will “cure” their hearing loss, I wish them the best and schedule my appointment for next week.”



Goal as a professional

- Provide accurate information regarding the child's diagnosis
- Provide information about assistive technology
- Provide information about available early intervention services for which the child and family qualifies
- Encourage appropriate decision making
- Connect family with other families through Hands & Voices
- Allow the freedom for the family in making the decisions regarding their child



There's ALWAYS A Story

- A Catholic Family
 - You may never hear a word spoken about faith or Family
 - There may be influences that you are unaware of that impact a families experience of support during and following diagnosis

Thank you



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