

# Case Examples in Language Acquisition



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# Research

- DEAF CHILDREN

- Brenda Schick
- Marc Marschark
- Peter Hauser
- Rachel Mayberry

- HEARING CHILDREN

- Eugene Garcia and Bryant Jensen
- Christine Yoshinaga-Itano
- Susan Goodwyn and Linda Acredolo
- Rachel Mayberry
- Marilyn Daniels:

- *"All human beings need a language for communication, but they also need a language for thinking, for processing information. Speech and language are two very different things."*

## S.G.

- Adopted age 3 yrs from Russian Orphanage
- Minimal language
- Received first CI at age 5
- Initially tried straight oral program, then transitioned to Total Communication with noticeable improvement in socialization and school performance
- Can function in sign or speech – preferred mode SimCom (able to advocate for own decision for language mode)

# O.R.

- CI as preschooler
- Never developed meaningful speech despite intense oral therapy
- Parents switched to a Total Communication education program with subsequent strong ASL development
- Recently graduated from Gallaudet and is currently preparing for GRE and for applying to graduate school

# A.B.

- CHARGE syndrome
- Parents chose to expose to both sign and speech (mother also severe-profound and uses both). Initial language production was primarily ASL with some single spoken words
- Regression of signs at 15 mo well check visit prompted early screen for hypothyroidism based on underlying genetic disorder (no other physical symptoms of thyroid dysfunction at the time). Diagnoses of hypothyroidism made.
- After replacement therapy started, bilingual development took off (85+ expressive signs and 65+ spoken words with combining in a 15 month period)

# Final Thoughts

- Difficult to have a single “blueprint” for deaf children, as all children are unique and have unique (and often unpredictable) strengths
- Current research supports concepts of spoken language development with visual language as cognitive platform
- Concept of choosing one language system and sticking to it at all costs still needs revisiting

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