

“Needed:

Accessible Programs for Language Development”

The ultimate goal of early intervention is to provide to parents techniques and guidance so that they can, in turn, provide their Deaf or Hard of Hearing child access to a naturally occurring language so that cognitive, social and emotional development are not delayed

Computer Literacy

- How many of you in the audience can operate a PC computer?
- How many of you in the audience can operate a Mac computer?
- How many of you in the audience can operate both PC and Mac computers?
- Those of you can do both are Bilingual
- Being Bilingual gives you more

Auditory Verbal Therapy

Focuses on enhancing listening and speech without visual clues including lipreading and sign language.

Visual Communication Therapy

Focuses on learning American Sign Language at start to increase cognitive development skills

Dr. Linda Acredolo

and

Dr. Susan Goodwyn,

the authors of the book *Baby Signs:*

How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk, have conducted over two decades of academic research on the use of signs with hearing babies, including a long-term study funded by the National Institutes of Health

With Visual Communication Therapy

Enhances bonding

Bridges communication

Reduces frustration & tantrums

Fun, exciting and educational

Acceleration of speech

Increases vocabulary

May result in higher IQ

Builds confidence and motivates shy children

Has positive effects on literacy

Bona Fide Language

- English as an Auditory Language
- ASL as a Visual Language
 - A Bona Fide language has two components

auditory language (English) have the sound of the word and the tone of the word which is the data input

visual language (ASL) have the signing of the word and the hand movements which is the data input

The Earlier the Better

Parents should introduce language from day one.

The earlier a child is exposed to language, the more advanced their communication skills will be.

Research suggests that the first six months are crucial to a child's development of language skills.

ively Experiences growing
up

different communications

- Verbal English
- Artificial sign language
- American Sign Language
- Research says normal data flow rate communication is 150 words per minute.

Tone Deafness

- News Media often uses “Tone Deaf” to describe pathetic political leaders
- Unable to tell the difference in pitch between different notes
- This describes how nearly all Deaf people with hearing devices hears.
- Tone Deafness is the reason why most Oral Deaf people depend on lipreading and other methods.
- Deaf people will never be hearing

Critical Thinking

- Critical-Thinking Skills in Children depends on the child's cognitive development skills
- Language acquisition before age of 5
- Bilingualism: ASL/English will nurture critical-thinking skills for all Deaf babies and children

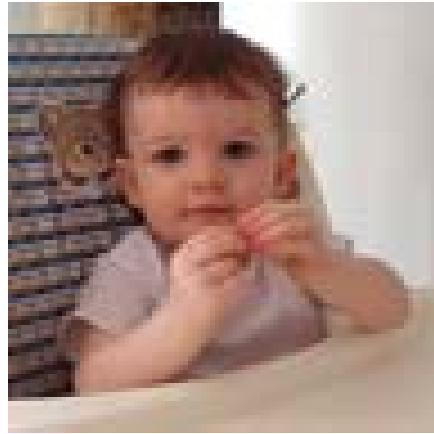
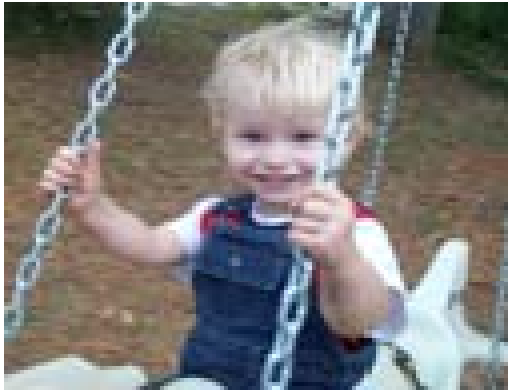
Medical Myths

- American Sign Language should be avoided with Auditory Verbal Therapy because it hinders speech development.
- Research disputes this claim:
- There is **NO** evidence that signing removes a child's motivation to speak or interferes with learning to speak.

What Families Face in Early Intervention

- Parents may be emotionally unhealthy during initial decision-making times.
- Parents may jump into a communication option without being fully educated.
- Parents may pick an approach to language based upon their needs and not their child's needs

Access to Visual language



- The primary focus must be on optimizing language competency and providing the deaf infant with 100% access to visual language, necessary to ensure early language acquisition and normal cognitive development skills.
- American Sign Language can provide an efficient way to communicate to understand of how spoken

Communicate with parents and family
asap.

Develop cognitive abilities in infancy

Acquire world knowledge.

Communicate with the surrounding
world.

Acculturate into two worlds.

The right of the deaf child to grow up bilingual*



What Can We Do?

Let's Help Parents be Fully Informed

- Do you think we need VCT?
- Help us plan and develop VCT Project
- Help us with grants and donations
- Help us convince EHDI to work on
- VCT/AVT packets to distribute to all parents...and audiologist, therapists, etc
- Support Bilingualism: ASI /English for