



June, 2011

Hope! Dream! Achieve

www.myparentlinks.com

Deaf Child Near

Article submitted by Apryl Chauhan
Parent Links Mentor



The dangers of having a deaf child near busy traffic area can be frightening for a parent with a deaf child. Below is an article written by a parent dealing with this issue. Through the process of finding a resolution, she also found a symbol for her family....

Our son Adam was born prematurely weighing 2lbs.6oz. He had to stay in the NICU for two-months and after his discharge he was re admitted for another week and a half. This was the beginning of many hospitalizations. In the meantime, Adam's hearing was tested numerous times at different hospitals and never passed the tests. I knew he was deaf at about six months old. He would not respond

to any sounds. The one thing he did respond to was the home security alarm.

Adam did not get diagnosed until one-year old. That may seem early to most people but as Adam's mother it seemed to take so long. I decided early on that I had a choice. I could fear the unknown while I waited until an audiologist confirmed what I had been feeling or I could accept the situation and hope for the best. So I started signing to him. I did not know many signs so I just started making things up; moving my hands, making exaggerated facial expressions, and being extra silly at play time. His eyes would glue to me and he would become memorized by each movement. This response was better than when I would call his name and get nothing so I continued.

Our family is now learning to sign, my husband and I take ASL classes and we try to attend events within the Deaf community. Watching people sign makes me realize how much more I have to learn. It can be very overwhelming yet inspiring. I have to remind myself to be patient. In the mean time we have decided to try everything within our power to ensure that Adam has every opportunity that hearing people have. We want him to grow up in a home filled with acceptance and encouragement. This is why we are so proud of our "DEAF CHILDREN NEAR" sign. I never in my wildest dreams would have thought that a street sign would mean so much to me. The street sign is a symbol to our family. It of course represents safety but more importantly it symbolizes pride, determination and love for our child. We are neither ashamed nor sad for our son, he is a magnificent human being that has an intense charisma which draws people to him and they are happier after they leave him. We know he is meant for something extraordinary and as his parents we want to do all we can to get him there. He has no problems communicating he only uses a different language and after accepting the situation; the street sign was just one place for us to start.

*If you are interested in getting a "Deaf Children Near" sign start by contacting an advocate, mentor organization, Department of Motor Vehicles or California Departs of Transportation (CALTRANS) in your area.



Apryl Chauhan

Mother of 3 young children Apryl's journey has brought her full circle. When her daughter was identified with a hearing loss a Parent Links mentor was there to support her family. Now, as a mentor herself Apryl is sharing what she has learned along the way with parents.

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For more information please contact: John Tracy Clinic at Tel: (213)748-5481 or look online at jtc.org [View website](#)

ASL University- free online course in American Sign Language



ASLU is an online American Sign Language curriculum resource center. ASLU has been offering online sign language instruction since 1997. The program began as an effort to support parents of deaf children living in rural or "outlying" areas without access to sign language classes. This online class offers 30 lessons.

ASLU was set up by William G. Vicars Ed.D. (a.k.a. "Dr. Bill") who is currently the director, lead instructor, and webmaster. He holds an accredited doctorate in Deaf Studies / Deaf Education from Lamar University and he currently is a full-time Associate Professor of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies at California State University - Sacramento.

Below are approximately 100 basic ASL signs that are frequently used between parents and their young children. Found on ASL University Website.

- **Family** - mom, dad, boy-girl, marriage, brother-sister, grandpa-grandma, aunt-uncle, baby, single, divorced-separate
- **Places** - home, work, school, store, church, come-go, car/drive, in-out, with
- **Time** - day, night, week, month, year, will-(future), before-(in the past), today-(now), finish-("all done!")
- **Temperature** - hot, cold
- **Food** - pizza, milk, hamburger, hot dog, egg, apple, cheese, drink, spoon, fork, cup, cereal, water, candy, cookie, hungry
- **Clothes** - shirt, pants, socks, shoes, coat, underwear
- **Health** - wash, hurt, bathroom, brush teeth, sleep, nice/clean
- **Feelings** - happy, angry, sad, sorry, cry, like, good-bad, love
- **Requests** - please, excuse, thank you, help, who, what, when, where, why, how, stop
- **Amounts** - big, tall, full, more
- **Colors** - blue, green, yellow, red, brown, orange, gold & silver
- **Money** - dollars, cents, cost
- **Animals** - cat, dog, bird, horse, cow, sheep, pig, bug

For more information please go to www.lifeprint.com



Parent Mentors

Parent mentors are parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. From hearing aids, cochlear implants, sign language and speech, we have been there. Have questions? Give us a call.

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