



May 2013

## *Communicating With Your Child*

*Rosemary Garrity & Robert Anthony, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf*

For hundreds of years, people have debated the best ways to communicate and educate children who are deaf and hard-of hearing children.

Here are a few things that scientific and health professionals, educators, and experienced parents usually agree on:

- The earlier hearing levels are identified, the better chances a child has to acquire language, whether spoken or signed.
- Each child is unique. It is important to understand a child's hearing levels. It is also important to understand how each family member and caregiver will communicate with the child. Get to know the services that are provided in your community for children in preschool and elementary school.
- All children hearing, deaf or hard of hearing benefit from early exposure to sign language.
- Children with hearing loss are visual learners.
- Meeting and interacting with deaf and hard of hearing adults and children leads to a greater understanding and acceptance of their own child.
- Optimizing residual hearing may be advantageous. Children may benefit from amplification. This is a decision that you should discuss with your child's health care providers.
- Exploring the options and, if possible, working with professionals in teams can be beneficial. Your child may visit a pediatrician, an otolaryngologist, an audiologist, and/or a speech-language pathologist. Ask each to keep the others informed about your child's visits. Coordinated care can be a big help to you and your child.
- Connecting with parents and adults who can answer your questions is very beneficial.
- It is important to interact often with your infant who is hard-of-hearing by holding, facing, smiling, and responding to your infant from the very beginning. All of the caregivers in the child's life should keep interacting with him or her. Children need love, encouragement, and care from their families.

### **Parent Links Is...**

**A program of the California Department of Education funded by a federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant. The Parent Links name and materials are used with permission of the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.**



## We would like to Hear Your Story!



If you are a parent or relative of a child who has been identified as being deaf or hard of hearing we would like to hear from you and share your story in our newsletter and our website!

Please contact Darla from more information

Phone: 559-229-2000 x 208

Video Phone: 559478-2763

Email: [dschwehr@epuchildren.org](mailto:dschwehr@epuchildren.org)

### Local Spotlight - Bay Area



#### **Family Connections- helping parents shape their child's success**

**Family Connections Department** offers 1:1 services, classes, workshops, training institutes, consultation, and meaningful family activities. There are four categories of programs: **Literacy**, **Education**, **Advocacy** and **Public Announcement Services**, (**LEAP**).

#### **LITERACY:**

- Literacy Day Camp
- Club Saturday

#### **EDUCATION:**

- Parent Education Classes
- Deaf Role Model
- Family ASL Classes

#### **ADVOCACY:**

- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Publications

<p><b>DCARA Headquarters</b>  14895 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St  San Leandro, Ca 94578  For more information, contact:  Director, Family Connections Department  510-343-6671 510-343-6670 VP &amp; Toll Free Voice  Email: Deborah O'Willow at  <a href="mailto:deborah.owillow@dcara.org">deborah.owillow@dcara.org</a></p>
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## Seeking participants now!

### *Should I sign with my child who has a cochlear implant?*

Little is known about the effects of sign language exposure in children who receive cochlear implants. In this study, we investigate children's brain activity while they listen to sound and view common signs to understand the complimentary effects of CI usage and sign language exposure.

#### Study: Sign Language Exposure and Cochlear Implant Use

**Looking for:** Children 12 months-8 years old who use a cochlear implant and continue to be exposed to sign language at home or at school.

*Financial compensation is available for parents and children will receive a toy!*

**For more information:** [aslresearch@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aslresearch@ucdavis.edu), 530-564-1090 (VP)  
**Or visit our website:** <http://mindbrain.ucdavis.edu/labs/Corina>



Stanford University



## Seeking participants now!

### *What are the benchmarks for early ASL acquisition?*

We are investigating how children learn ASL. In this study, we examine early ASL vocabulary development by looking at children's eye gaze while they watch engaging ASL videos. Our research is important for parents, educators and professionals who work with young deaf children.

#### Study: Early Vocabulary Comprehension

**Looking for:** Native signing children, Deaf or hearing, 18-36 months.

*Financial compensation is available for parents and children will receive a toy!*

**For more information:** [aslbabylab@gmail.com](mailto:aslbabylab@gmail.com), 530-564-1090 (VP)  
**Or visit our website:** <http://mindbrain.ucdavis.edu/labs/Corina>



[www.myparentlinks.com](http://www.myparentlinks.com)



# Parent Mentors



Offering support to parents is what Parent Links is all about. Each mentor is a parent of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Through email, phone and mail we are here to help answer the questions that parents may have about raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Help parents find local connections.
- Parent Mentoring in Spanish and English... Just give us a call.

## **Exceptional Parents Unlimited**

Darla Schwehr  
Vicky Olea  
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Fresno, CA 93726  
559-229-2000  
[dschwehr@epuchildren.org](mailto:dschwehr@epuchildren.org)  
[volea@epuchildren.org](mailto:volea@epuchildren.org)

### **Counties**

Alameda, Contra Costa  
Fresno, Kings  
Madera, Mariposa  
Merced, Monterey  
San Benito, San Francisco  
San Joaquin, San Mateo  
Santa Clara, Santa Cruz  
Stanislaus, Tulare

## **Family Focus Resource & Empowerment Center**

Irma Sanchez  
Cora Shahid  
Kristal Molina  
Cynthia Lemus-Ramos  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330  
818-677-6854 Office

### **Counties**

Imperial, Inyo  
Kern, Los Angeles  
*Mono, Orange*  
*Riverside, San Bernardino*  
*San Diego, San Luis Obispo*  
*Santa Barbara, Ventura*

## **Rowell Family Empowerment Center**

Kat Lowrance  
Cindy Sandoval  
C962 Maraglia Street  
Redding, CA 96002  
530-226-5129

### **Counties:**

*Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras*  
*Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn,*  
*Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin,*  
*Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada,*  
*Placer, Plumas*  
*Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra*  
*Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma*  
*Sutter, Tehama, Trinity*  
*Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba*

***All agencies offer information in  
Spanish, English and ASL.***