

CRITICAL STEPS TO PREPARING YOUR D/HH CHILD FOR THE WORLD



COMMUNICATION

- Deafness is a difference in communication, not necessarily a disability
- Speech and Language are two different categories.
 - Speech is articulation, voice and fluency
 - Language is the vocabulary and grammatical structure
- Early sign language can support later spoken language.
- Decide on a method of communication and use it **ALL THE TIME**.
 - Use signing with your other family members or with the dog, even when talking to yourself.
- **Repetition** is necessary for your child to learn to communicate his wants and needs consistently.

BEHAVIOR

- Whatever behavior is acceptable for a hearing child should be acceptable for a deaf/hh child.
- When unacceptable behavior is seen, communication needs to be used to explain why.
- **Repetition** is necessary for the child to understand acceptable and not acceptable behavior.

ACADEMICALLY

- Deaf students who perform best academically usually are the ones whose parents have effectively communicated with them from an early age.
- Children who sign early on generally outperform those who do not sign during their early school years.
- Use Closed Captioning **all the time**. It teaches the child that each spoken word has a written word. It also benefits siblings who have language issues.
- **Repetition** is necessary because the child must memorize the word by sight without sound which takes longer than with sound.

