



HANDS & VOICES

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

How To Help



HANDS &
VOICES™



4th Quarter 2020

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Greetings from Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center,

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

As parents of children who are deaf/hard of hearing, professionals, and deaf/hard of hearing adults with lived experience, we are all on a journey of forging a trail that we may not have expected, but are indeed forging a path towards the future together. Here at Hands & Voices, our goal is to create opportunities for us to grow and go together as we build the future. We want you to know you are a part of our community, and we are here to support and walk alongside you. We hope you find the resources we are sharing in this edition of the E-News helpful along your path.

We invite you to get connected. Follow our [Facebook page](#), research and contact [family-based organizations and family leaders](#) in your state/territory or province that provides support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and check out our [calendar of upcoming events](#). We are here for you!

See you on the trail,

Janet DesGeorges, co-founder and Executive Director,
Hands & Voices

*This Hands & Voices and FL3 Center quarterly eNews is intended for a broad audience. Please feel free to disseminate it to others. Our hope is that Family Based Organizations, Family Leaders, and professionals will forward it to their distribution lists.



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Upcoming Events
Don't miss these opportunities to

connect and learn with other leaders.
Registration Required

Webinar:
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
1:00 PM-2:00 PM MT

"Small Steps for Big Vision: An Eye Health Information Tool Kit for Parents and Caregivers"

MCHB's Vision Screening program's grantee, Prevent Blindness, is having a webinar launch for the [Small Steps for Big Vision](#): An Eye Health Information Tool Kit for Parents and Caregivers. Small Steps for Big Vision is a new, free online resource for parents and caregivers to be empowered partners in their children's vision and eye health. This webinar is targeted to parents as well as professionals.

Audience: EHDI Family leaders

For more information and to register:
[click here](#)

Webinar:
Thursday, October 29, 2020
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM MT

"Eight Reasons to say YES to Early Intervention: Supporting Families During the time of COVID"

Presented by Janet DesGeorges and Sara Kennedy, Hands & Voices HQ

The FL3 Center has developed a new resource directed at families about early intervention (EI) and can be used by professionals and family-to-family support programs as well. This [tool](#) shares insights from providers who engage with families who may not or do not choose to enroll in EI and explores further the understanding of these families compared to families in the past.

For more information and to register:
[click here](#)

FL3 Office Hours:
Thursday, November 19th, 2020
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM MT

"Raising Up Diverse Leaders" What are effective strategies for raising up family support providers who reflect the diversity of families?

Facilitated by Rosabel Agbayani, Consultant for Underrepresented

H&V FL3 Consultant to Support Diversity and Inclusion Innovations



The FL3 Center is pleased to announce Rosabel Agbayani has been hired to identify, establish, and implement a Plan for Diversity and Inclusion that addresses the inclusion of underrepresented populations. This position will assist H&V to focus on diversity with specific supports in the FL3's delivery of technical assistance, training, and education, resource development and dissemination, quality improvement methodology, evidence-based best practices, policy initiatives, and program partnerships.

Rosabel (a child of Retired Navy Chief) lives in San Diego, California with her husband Mike and three children, including a son who is deaf and identified at age three. Rosabel's passion for working with families began in 2002, while working for Supportive Parents Information Network (SPIN) San Diego. Assisting low-income families and at-risk youth from a variety of cultural backgrounds, she learned the importance of family engagement/empowerment by building community capacity through education and advocacy.

Her career in Healthcare Administration honed her skills in Quality Risk Management and Clinical Research. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development, Bachelor of Science in Communicative Disorders & Deaf Education, and a Master's in Public Health, Specializing in Health Promotion. Rosabel has volunteered with California Hands & Voices since 2013 where she currently serves as the President. She also is the Chair of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee for Poway Unified School District and works for Rady Children's Hospital San Diego as the Lead Clinical Research Coordinator for the Department of Rheumatology.

Welcome, Rosabel!



[Hands & Voices](#) is working with [Family Voices](#) as a Telehealth Partner to disseminate information and resources created as part of their federal Telehealth Grant for Family Engagement. The project will help to improve access to telehealth services for families of children and youth with special health care needs.

Please complete the Family Telehealth Readiness Quiz to assist them in gathering initial data to guide this work. No identifying information is being gathered.

Captioning provided. Please email Candace by November 12th if requesting ASL interpreting or other accommodations.

[Click here](#) to register.

For information on future Office Hours and other Hands & Voices events [click here](#).



COVID FL3 Resources Available

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on how services are provided to families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. As a result, many parents have struggled with the transition of therapies once offered in-person to those offered virtually. This resource summarizes tips from a parent leader/mother in the trenches:

Spanish:

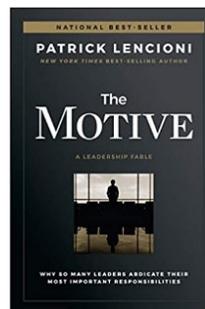
[Experiencias de una Madre con la Tele-Terapia](#)

English:

[Experience with Teletherapy from a Mom that has Been There and Done That](#)

For more COVID 19 resources [click here](#).

**H&V Reads:
A Leadership Book Club
Friday, October 23rd, 2020
1:00 - 2:00 PM MST**



H&V Facilitator: Janet DesGeorges

Lencioni thrusts his readers into a day-long conversation between rival CEOs:

[English Version](#)
[Spanish Version](#)



early intervention
RESEARCH GROUP

[The Early Intervention Research Group \(EIRG\) at Northwestern University](#) is conducting a virtual language

development study for children with hearing loss and their parents, funded by the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Infants with bilateral hearing loss younger than 19 months old are eligible to participate with a parent. Families can use any communication modality. Participation in this study is in addition to other services families may already receive. Parents will receive tips about how to support their child's language development, reports about their child's development, compensation for their time (up to \$950), and an iPad and equipment to help with virtual visits. Some families may also receive virtual parent coaching to work on communication strategies with their child.

To learn more about your eligibility and the study, you can do any of the following and Laura from the Early Intervention Research Group will be in touch. Deadline Feb. 2022

1. Complete this recruitment [survey link](#)
2. Text 'info' 847-750-3440
3. Email ei@northwestern.edu



[The National Security Language Initiative for Youth \(NSLI-Y\)](#), a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), provides merit-based scholarships for eligible U.S. high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs.

Programs are available for Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, and Turkish. NSLI-Y immerses participants in the cultural life of the host community, giving them formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. Previous language study is not required; language learners of all levels are welcome to apply. The NSLI-Y program seeks applicants who represent the diversity of the United States. Students of all racial, ethnic, religious, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, and socio-economic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Shay Davis and Liam Alcott. Lencioni uses unexpected plot twists and crisp dialogue to take us on a journey that culminates in a resolution that is as unexpected as it is enlightening. In addition to provoking readers to honestly assess themselves, Lencioni presents action steps for changing their approach in five key areas. In doing so, he helps leaders avoid the pitfalls that stifle their organizations and even hurt the people they are meant to serve.

To register, [click here](#).



Request For Updated Family Support Contract Information

EHDI Program (HRSA-20-047) Recipients are invited to provide updated information about contracted FBOs, parent leaders, D/HH adult information. Up to 4 contacts per FBO. Please provide for each: Organization Name, Contact Person Name, Email, Title, Phone Number, webpage (if applicable).

[Click here](#) to review the current information we have.

Please send updates to:
FL3@handsandvoices.org

**U.S. Specific



Five Quick Tips for Children Using Hearing Technology

Dr. Teresa Caraway, CEO of Hearing

American Councils makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for participants with disabilities. For students who require accommodations, a written request for accommodations must be made, per the American Councils Disability Accommodations Policy (provided at the time of selection notification).

[Click here](#) for digital brochures and posters.

Questions? [Click Here](#)

***U.S. Specific



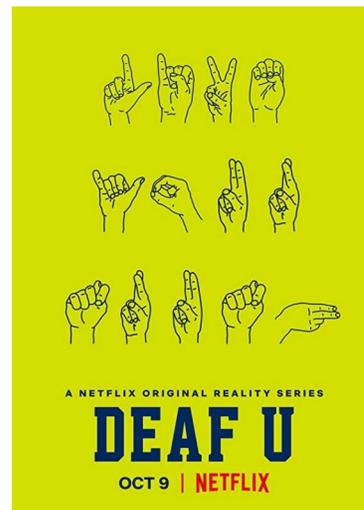
Lorin Porth a student in the Masters in Genetic Counseling program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine is conducting a new research study to better understand parents' decisions about genetic testing for their child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Parents who have a child (under age 18) who is deaf or hard of hearing and have had a conversation with a healthcare provider about genetic testing about their hearing can take part in the study.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please [click here](#) for more information by October 31, 2020

DEAF U | A NETFLIX ORIGINAL REALITY SERIES

Deaf U is a reality show that follows seven Gallaudet students. These seven students provide an up close and often deeply personal look at their college journey. As they show us their deaf college experience, they show the world our culture, diversity, and ASL vibrancy.



Like many reality shows, Deaf U will spark conversation both inside and outside of our community, but Gallaudet University hopes that it will also help redefine society's perceptions about deaf people and serve as a spark for healthy conversations and new opportunities.

First talked with Dr. Jace Wolfe, Director of Audiology and Research at Hearts for Hearing to share essential advice for parents who are helping their child with hearing loss learn to listen and talk.

Five Quick Tips [available here](#)

Hearing First Community Forum

Hearing First provides a platform for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing and who use Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) to find advice and tips for everyday LSL situations and share 'go-to' or new favorite strategies, insights and discoveries for other families to use.

Sign up [here](#).

For more information [click here](#).

**TV-MA Rating



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Submitted by Lisa Jolly, Beginnings SC

Summer learning, having fun and making connections during a pandemic can be a challenge to say the least. In an effort to meet this challenge, Books with Beginnings Virtual Circle Time is making a splash each week with South Carolina families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Our virtual circle time meets each Tuesday morning at 9:30 via ZOOM. We sing and sign songs, speak and sign vocabulary related to our book of the week, engage in an extension activity and speak and sign a nursery rhyme each month with the help of an older child or adult who is DHH. This collaborative activity brings together a group of families with children who have hearing loss ranging in ages 2-5 for a fun filled time with role models who also have hearing loss and caring professionals. It also provides an opportunity for our older children who are DHH to give back as they participate in assisting with STEAM activities and leading the Nursery Rhyme of the month.

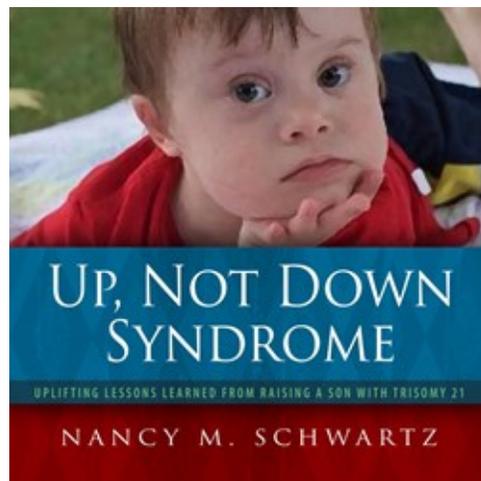
With person to person support group meetings suspended due to COVID-19, we quickly realized the parents desire to connect and began offering a time for parents to meet and chat following the "Goodbye Song" which marks the end of the children's portion of circle time. Each meeting we incorporate the principles of [Fostering Joy](#) as we talk and encourage our families to join the movement. Following Circle Time, a parent came up with an idea to have a virtual playgroup. As an FBO, we decided to provide the technical support for this and held the first Virtual Playgroup on August 12. The feedback has been wonderful. One parent stated, "Just wanted to let you know that the zoom meeting with Maizy's friends today was wonderful! It was such a great way for her to get some interaction with her peers, which is especially needed right now."

Recognizing the need to have parent to parent support, we are in partnership with SC Hands & Voices to expand Topic Tuesdays. This group has been meeting once a month since January via conference call to learn about services for DHH in SC. On August 18, we will begin holding Topic Tuesdays via ZOOM and are excited about the opportunity to partner with SC Hands & Voices in providing high quality programming for parents to engage in learning and network with one another. We could not provide Virtual Circle Time or support to SC Hands & Voices without the support of Tara Carroll, SC's First Sound Program Manager. SC's EHDI program, First Sound, is committed to increasing engagement with parents of children with hearing loss. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with First Sound and creatively meet the needs of our parents and children during a challenging time.

Book Review

Submitted by Candace Lindow-Davies

Up, Not Down Syndrome, is Nancy M. Schwartz journey from acceptance to celebration of her unexpected role as mother to her third child Alex, who has Trisomy 21. For parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, especially those who have additional health challenges (lovingly referred to as DHH Plus), much of her story is familiar: the news, the adjustments, the challenges and the devotion. She ends each chapter with a list of lessons Alex has taught her and what she believes Alex is thinking. What is most delightful are the gentle words of wisdom sprinkled over the pages, like the advice she received from another parent, "Let me tell you what my dad told me. People will respond to him the way you respond to him. He is an addition. That's it. He's nothing other than an addition." The "Plus!" Or her own change in perception, "Now, when I see pictures of children with Trisomy 21, they seem as gorgeous and rare as shooting stars." Later she explains, "Children who need assistance can possess a special kind of spirit-energy that is a blessing and joy to be around." And she frequently talks about how much happiness Alex has brought to her life, "I try to remember to rejoice in the process. The small moments. The victories along the way. Before Alex, everything seemed to be about the destination. Now, my son who can't yet dance has taught me to dance through life's daily miracles." Chapter 7 is especially touching when she describes how an exceptional teacher helped her son discover the magic of music and she, in turn, learned to never underestimate her son's hidden talents. A delightful and quick read, reminding us all of the beautiful and diverse gifts each child possesses.



How to Submit a Request for FL3 Technical Assistance

Requesting technical assistance from the FL3 team is easy!

Hands & Voices FL3 Center Technical Assistance

The Hands & Voices Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) Center Technical Assistance aids family-based support organizations, including Hands & Voices (H&V) Chapters/Programs, EHDI Program recipients, and family leaders in meeting their family engagement, leadership, and family support program objectives.

Request TA here: <https://handsandvoices.org/fl3/request-ta.html>

[Click here](#) for the online form.

Website Resources Facebook Page