



Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Communication Tips for Families of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Offered below are tips for supporting families when they are communicating with their baby who is deaf or hard of hearing.

- Sign with your child as much as possible regardless of your signing skill level.
- Communicate at your child's eye level when signing.
- Sign in the home as much as possible, even when conversing with others.
 Children absorb information from incidental learning experiences (i.e., "overseeing" conversations).
- Watch for 'manual babbling' or rhythmic and imitative hand movement in your baby. This is the first step to formal signing. Babies who are deaf or hard of hearing may babble with their hands more so than with their voices.
- Demonstrate signs for your child to learn when sharing a toy, book, or experience (such as bath time).

MODULE FOUR

Launching Communication and Language Through Sign

Stacey Culver, MS, CCC-SLP

- Use descriptors to expand language exposure for your child (e.g., big truck, red ball).
- Play with signs and incorporate them into a story (e.g., the plane flies up, the plane flies down, the plane flies all around—while using the sign for plane and moving it all over).

For Additional Resources

Please refer to the Module 4 video for more tips and information as well as for additional resources. Also, visit our websites at www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhhp and http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu.

Copyright © 2015 by Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, Gallaudet University; and Boston Children's Hospital. All rights reserved.

The activities reported in this publication were supported by federal funding. Publication of these activities shall not imply approval or acceptance by the U.S. Department of Education of the findings, conclusions, or recommendations herein. Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.